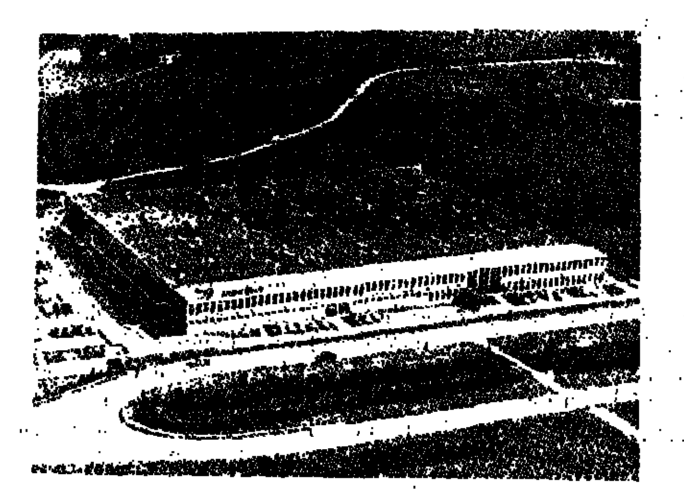


The German Tribune

Hamburg, 5 November 1978 · Seventeenth Year · No. 863 · By air

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE GERMAN PRESS

C 20725 C

ISSN 0016-8858

Scheel shows the flag in Pacific

Hannoversche Allgemeine

Bonn President Walter Scheel has flown the flag in the Pacific in every sense: many of the places he visited in New Zealand saw the black, red and gold German flag unfurled for the first time.

Even more important, he has toured what, from Europe, is the other end of the earth, both directing antipodean attention to Germany and reminding Germans that the Pacific exists.

For years the German imagination did not extend to a specific interest in the region, but there has now been a change from which both sides have benefited.

What has remained is a degree of political reserve on Bonn's part which is a far cry from the jostling for influence of the Russians and Chinese.

So Bonn has come to be rated a valued partner and Walter Scheel's state visits were welcomed as opportunities for plain dealing.

Bonn now realises that it cannot indifferently abandon the South Pacific to its fate. Its many island groups, some of which, such as Fiji and Tonga, are now independent, are vulnerable to Soviet expansion.

The Pacific neighbours of Australia and New Zealand are all developing countries. Both do much to help them. Bonn too lends a hand via the Lomé convention, but more is expected of both Germany and Europe.

So Herr Scheel was accompanied not by Foreign Minister Genscher but by Economic Affairs Minister Lambsdorff and tried a skilful hand at honest brokerage.

In both Australia and New Zealand, he spoke not only for Bonn but also, with due discretion, for Europe, explaining the role of the Nine to his opposite numbers.

He did not hesitate to say that the EEC could only do its role in world affairs justice by taking care not to seal itself off from the outside world – both the industrialised and Third World countries.

Herr Scheel and Herr Lambsdorff, who are both liberals, feel the Nine must be prepared to modify their views and limit their expectations as the world economy develops.

But the president was not promising miracles. Indeed, he said with disarming frankness that a continent as densely populated as Europe could not afford to depend on others for food.

Thus farmers must be ensured a standard of living that is a matter of course in other trades and professions. His audience could hardly dispute the logic of this argument.

Herr Scheel did not fly home to Bonn with concrete results because he did not fly to Australasia to negotiate bilateral agreements.

But he did use to the full his reputation on detente to help persuade Australia in particular that, with its economic difficulties it would gain nothing from sulking in disappointment over the EEC.

A few unfriendly advance reports in the Australian media did not prove typical of Herr Scheel's reception. He was welcomed with marked cordiality in Canberra.

Mr Fraser's government would appear to have adopted a more subtle approach after years of reliance on Australia's enormous commodity reserves and a tendency to cold-shoulder the Europeans.

Walter Scheel's tour of Australia and New Zealand was not just an exercise in non-committal goodwill. Both sides have good reason for satisfaction.

Herr Scheel showed understanding for their difficulties and his visit, the first ever by a German head of state, seems likely to have promoted bilateral ties at levels other than the economic.

More can hardly be expected of a state visit.

Ludwig Harms

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 30 October 1978)



Hand of welcome: Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser in conversation with President Walter Scheel soon after the arrival of the Federal Republic of Germany's head of state in Canberra, the Australian capital. (Photo: dpa)

IN THIS ISSUE

Salt good news signals international shifts

Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger

The news from the latest round of Salt talks in Moscow is encouraging, and with another meeting between Mr Gromyko and Mr Vance ahead, it looks as though both sides are now keen to successfully conclude the negotiations.

This alone is a crucial change in the international scene, and it goes beyond negotiations between the two superpowers.

One factor is the change in the superpowers' leaders' assessments of each other and the change in world opinion.

Almost overnight Jimmy Carter has been transformed from being seen as a failure in Europe in general and West Germany in particular into a success.

He owes this transformation mainly to his role at Camp David and the subsequent peace talks between Egypt and Israel.

But his reputation could never have gained such a swift boost had not the results of hard efforts started to show in other sectors, especially home affairs.

Nothing comparable has happened in the Soviet Union. Politically Mr Brezhnev's position is evidently unchanged. But for the first time in months grave doubts have arisen over his health.

Whatever the truth may be, there can be little doubt the Soviet leader has nothing to gain by delaying agreement on Salt II. This is one harvest Mr Brezhnev himself would like to reap.

So he will not be put off by events in other areas that might otherwise have led to further delay or even triggered a crisis at the Salt talks.

This may even hold good for such sensitive moves as Mr. Carter's recent decision to give the go-ahead for further development of the neutron bomb.

Some of the 'signs of the times' can even be seen in Germany. Talks between the two German states have progressed well in recent weeks, for instance.

Another factor of much greater significance is Moscow's decision to appoint the leading Soviet specialist on German affairs, Vladimir Semyonov, to replace Valentin Falin as the Kremlin's man in Bonn.

It may all be due to Soviet fears about the future role of China, but there is a much more likely story, which also relates to Washington.

The Soviet leaders will have noticed that the Bonn government takes an extremely dim view of the activities of a number of US hawks on the relaxation of East-West tension.

This affects not only foreign but also Bonn's domestic policy. Take, for instance, the debate on Social Democratic general secretary Egon Bahr's alleged reunification plans.

Take also Bonn's criticism of Nato, especially Nato's manoeuvre planning and Nato leaders' vociferous warning about Soviet military potential.

These disputes also demonstrate that the improvement in the climate of international opinion is not yet definite. Setbacks are still possible and level heads are needed.

Bonn has a particularly heavy responsibility in view of both its political importance and its geographical location. But if the positive trend continues Bonn also stands to benefit substantially.

Hans Gerlach

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 27 October 1978)

■ FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Bonn crosses swords with Brussels on defence

Bonn and Brussels are in the throes of twin storms in a teacup, both in the "sensitive" defence sector. Neither needs to be dramatised but it would be equally wrong to play either down.

They are the debate on large-scale annual manoeuvres in Germany and the tension, possibly with personal undertones, between Bonn Defence Minister Hans Apel and Nato Secretary-General Joseph Luns of Holland.

Both involve a clash between the primacy of politics and specialised decisions by military men.

What makes both affairs particularly difficult is that they are taking place at the poorly defined level of ties between the "sovereign" Federal Republic of Germany and Nato.

This is a sector in which there is no clear subordination and disputes cannot simply be fought out. Dogmatism would be a mistake. The two sides are partners and have a reciprocal interest in remaining so.

Since in the final analysis they have to remain on good terms, there is no need for them to suppress differences of opinion, which would merely continue to rumble beneath the surface.

Yet Nato is fragile and needs handling with care. It cannot emerge undamaged from two frankly acknowledged upsets of this kind.

The opening shot in the first affair was fired in early September by Andreas von Bülow, parliamentary state secretary to the Bonn Defence Ministry.

He voiced cautious criticism of this year's autumn military manoeuvres and the way in which Nato had chosen to manage them.

In some quarters this was seen seen as a stab in the back for the troops on exercise rather than a legitimate expression of anxiety by a responsible politician.

Nato C-in-C General Alexander Haig was most upset and both Defence Minister Apel and the Bonn government sought to reassure him.

Having taken the sting out of Herr von Bülow's original criticism, the Minister is in the process of continuing the debate more objectively; and in the substance of his criticism Herr Apel clearly by no means entirely disagrees with his state secretary.

He does not object to regular, large-scale manoeuvres. He knows they cannot be replaced by war games conducted by officers without men. But he would like to have the last word when it comes to the effect large-scale manoeuvres may have on the public.

This public reaction to military activities is a political matter. No responsible politician would dream of allowing the military men a free hand, and this has little to do with party-political tactics over things like elections.

The outcome of such an attempt to manipulate public opinion could hardly be forecast, since its transparency would lose as many votes as were gained.

During this autumn's manoeuvres the Defence Minister and others gained the impression that West Germans, especially in areas where manoeuvres are held, are sick and tired of exercises.

So it is time for politicians and the military to get together and give thought to the dosage and management of manoeuvres.

Appeals to defence preparedness and pointing to war games by the other side are no longer enough. Nor, in the long run, is the reminder that damages will be paid in full.

Nervous strain and annoyance among the victims can no more be adequately compensated than can people who live near airports and have to suffer the noise of aircraft.

At least in some sectors less irritating procedures must be found. Perhaps more military supplies could be sent by rail, for instance.

Military planners have also had their leeway checked in a context that upset Mr Luns — the modernisation of Nato's tactical nuclear weapons in Central Europe.

At a Brussels session of Nato's Nuclear Planning Group, Herr Apel is said to have declined to give the experts carte blanche.

He rightly suspected that a number of details were political "dynamite" and without mincing words called for further talks and clarification at a meeting chaired by Mr Luns.

The Nato secretary-general may have taken such plain speaking at a gathering not normally given to emotion as a personal affront, especially as he is wondering whether he should stand for a further term.

But tactical nuclear arms are too important a topic to be set aside for reasons of personal pique.

Christian Potyka

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 25 October 1978)

Schmidt sees Nato head

Bonn Chancellor Helmut Schmidt says misunderstandings between Nato Secretary-General Joseph Luns and Defence Minister Hans Apel have been settled.

The Chancellor spent 90 minutes with Mr Luns in Bonn on 24 October. The Nato secretary-general had asked for an interview after Herr Apel reportedly accused him of weak leadership at a Brussels meeting of the Nato Nuclear Planning Group.

Reports from Brussels were described as greatly exaggerated by Defence Ministry sources in Bonn. The federal government made it clear that it had no intention of pursuing the issue.

Political observers attributed Herr Apel's outburst to his conviction that military men make too many (and politicians too few) decisions at Nato headquarters in Brussels.

This was roughly the tenor of the accusations he levelled at Mr Luns.

Bonn government spokesman Klaus Bölling said Herr Schmidt and Mr Luns had also discussed the repercussions on Nato strategy of current talks on international arms limitation. The two men agrred on most points. *dpa*

(Nordwest Zeitung, 25 October 1978)

Salt envoy for Bonn

Vladimir Semyonov, a former ambassador in East Berlin and chief Soviet delegate at the Salt talks, is to be Moscow's new man in Bonn, clearly showing that Moscow attaches great importance to this post.

Valentin Falin, who returned to Moscow in September after seven years as Bonn ambassador, has retired from the diplomatic service. He is now a deputy head of department in the party Central Committee.

After Mr Brezhnev's visit to Bonn earlier this year, the importance attached to West Germany in Soviet policy on Europe and detente has more than increased; it has gained in priority to a degree that amounts to a qualitative change.

This is why the Kremlin is keen to have a particularly well-qualified man at this key embassy. And it could hardly hve chosen a man inside or outside the diplomatic service who is better acquainted with Germany and so high-ranking a Soviet official.

Mr Semyonov is a professional who once said that one could only be regarded as an expert on a foreign country if one maintained the closest contact with its people, government and developments. In other words, he said, you had to live there.

This partly explains why he chose to deal with issues other than anything German when he was recalled from the Soviet embassy in East Berlin in 1954.

After less than a year as head of the German affairs section at the Soviet Foreign Ministry, he was appointed Mr Gromyko's deputy and no longer dealt with German matters.

International conferences became his speciality. Since November 1959, almost immediately after the first Sino-Soviet border clashes on the Ussuri, he has headed the Soviet delegation to the Salt talks.

He recently took part in the Moscow round of Salt talks with US Secretary of State Cyrus Vance.

Mr Semyonov served at the Soviet embassy in Berlin before the war. He was later transferred to Sweden and Lithuania. From 1945 to 1953 he was political adviser to the C-in-C, Soviet forces Germany, and from 1953 to 1954 Soviet high commissioner in Germany and ambassador to the GDR.

His appointment as ambassador to Bonn underscores not only the importance of West Germany from the Soviet viewpoint, but also the role of Western Europe in overall Soviet superpower policy. *Igor Witsinos*

(Der Tagesspiegel, 26 October 1978)

East mutters but Stobbe goes to Bonn

No matter how much views differ on issues in Bonn, Dietrich Stobbe, mayor of West Berlin, will serve his turn as chairman of the Bundesrat, upper house of the Bonn parliament, as a matter of routine.

The angry Soviet reaction must also be regarded chiefly as a matter of form. Oddly enough, East Berlin has held its fire so far but will no doubt follow in Moscow's disposal.

But routine or not, these East bloc protests must not simply be ignored. There is no telling what the Soviet Union will get up to and it may have something in mind that was formerly either deemed inopportune or was not at Moscow's dosposal.

When Willy Brandt and Klaus Schütz served as Bundesrat chairmen the Soviet Union lodged protests but was unable to refer to the 1971 Four-Power Agreement because it had yet to be negotiated.

This time protests have been made with references, even if somewhat tenuous, to the 1971 agreement. The West has a convincing case inasmuch as the Bundesrat chairmanship is not even mentioned in the Four-Power Agreement.

There was no reason for it to be, since the agreement does not call into question existing ties between West Berlin and Bonn, which unquestionably include the rotating Bundesrat chairmanship.

America, Britain and France, the Western signatories of the 1971 agreement, accept the status quo, much to Russia's chagrin.

What Moscow wants is to give the West a taste of its own medicine. America, Britain and France lodge regular, routine protests whenever GDR military parades are held in East Berlin.

But these East bloc attacks are not in keeping with an era of East-West rapprochement at the Salt talks and talks on improvements in transit facilities to and from West Berlin.

So one can but hope, in the interests of all, that the protests will prove mere routine.

Yet they show how reluctant Moscow is to dispense with the old ploys of threat and bluster. What sense is there in interfering with traffic to and from Berlin while negotiating terms for an autobahn linking Berlin and Hamburg?

Unfortunately the Soviet Union is neither able nor willing to put itself in its adversary's place. Were it to do so, it would realise why there can be no question of interrupting the Bundesrat chairmanship rota.

Bonn cannot and will not set up an offside trap for West Berlin, as Moscow would evidently like to see it do.

Besides, if Herr Stobbe as Bundesrat chairman and deputy for the Federal President were to run into protocol trouble because of a clash with his role as mayor of West Berlin, the vice-chairman of the Bundesrat could take his place.

This too is nothing new, just routine. So excitement is unnecessary and carries no conviction. *Friedrich Herzog*

(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 20 October 1978)

The German Tribune

Publisher: Friedrich Reinecke. Editor-in-Chief: Otto Heinz. Editor: Alexander Anthony. English language sub-editor: Peter Temple. – Distribution Manager: Georgine von Platen. Advertising Manager: Peter Boeckmann.

Friedrich Reinecke Verlag GmbH. 23 Schoene Aussicht, Hamburg 76, Tel.: 22 85 1. Telex: 02 14733. Bonn bureau: 65 Adenauerallee, 53 Bonn, Tel.: 21 90 00. Telex 08 86398.

Advertising rates list No. 13 – Annual subscription DM 35.

Printed by Krögers Buch- und Verlagsdruckerei, Hamburg-Blankenese. Distributed in the USA by: MASS MAILINGS, Inc. 540 West 24th Street, New York, N.Y. 10011.

All articles which THE GERMAN TRIBUNE reprints are published in cooperation with the editorial staffs of leading newspapers of the Federal Republic of Germany. They are complete translations of the original text, in no way abridged nor editorially redrafted. THE GERMAN TRIBUNE also publishes quarterly supplements featuring articles selected from German periodicals.

In all correspondence please quote your subscription number which appears on the wrapper, between asterisks, above your address.

■ HOME AFFAIRS

Christian Democrats finally thrash out party pledge

After seven years of hard work and the drafting and redrafting of 3,000 resolutions at the party conference in Ludwigshafen, the CDU has produced a party programme.

This means the Christian Democrats have made up the theoretical distance behind the Social Democrats and the Free Democrats, who have long had their Godesberg and Freiburg programmes.

It will always be a matter of dispute whether parties need these programmes. A conference delegate from Lower Saxony was certainly speaking for many when she said the whole thing should be thrown into the wastepaper basket.

Land chairman Hasselmann rebuked her and distanced himself from her sentiment, but it is no secret that the Lower Saxony CDU is sceptical about the usefulness of a huge programme. And the Lower Saxons are not alone. But they could not speak because the party conference had been called to pass the programme.

Hannoversche Allgemeine

The CDU programme, like many others, is an indigestible chunk, nebulously formulated in places and not always easy to understand. Few of the party's 700,000 members or any other voters are unlikely to read it, although it was written for them. It is certainly no accident that the Ludwigshafen programme, like the SPD's Godesberg programme, has been written when the party is in opposition.

In 1959 the Social Democrats wanted to show how little they had to do with the East European version of socialism and how much they had in common with bourgeois democrats. In this respect, the Godesberg programme was an important step for the SPD towards taking over in Bonn.

The CDU hopes for a similar benefit from its programme. It wants to prove that it has undergone a renewal and to underline its claim to power. But it is doubtdul whether the Ludwigshafen document will be as important for the CDU as the Godesberg programme was for the SPD.

There is a certain similarity in that both parties were in opposition, but the basic political situation of the CDU today cannot be compared with that of the Social Democrats in the 50s. The CDU/CSU ruled this country for 20 years and so has no need to prove its political legitimacy.

There is, however, a similarity between the behaviour of the SPD then and the CDU now. In the Godesberg programme the SPD moved nearer to liberal-bourgeois thinking, just as the CDU is now increasingly turning towards social ideas.

The CDU included, admittedly after heated discussion, the right to work in its programme and did not exclude the possibility of further cuts in working hours. Party leader Kohl told the delegates that these points had to be passed if he was to be able to show his face at factory gates in future.

It is no wonder, and also no disgrace, that the programmes of the democratic parties are beginning to resemble one another more and more, differing only on minor questions. The SPD and the CDU both consider themselves mass parties and they are. They are out to win middle-of-the-road voters, whose votes are decisive.

The CDU must win votes from the SPD and the FDP to return to power in Bonn. Floating voters never want anything completely different, they only want to bring fresh air into stagnant party structures. If the parties agree to a large extent on basic political issues, this can only benefit the stability of the state.

The parties have to produce party programmes to underline the dwindling differences between them. But it is doubtful whether they impress voters. The CDU applauded Franz Josef Strauss loudly at a conference a few years ago when he said that personalities were more important than programmes.

At Ludwigshafen party leader Helmut Kohl failed to persuade critics or friends that he was the man who could embody or even replace a political programme.

The CDU still faces the problem of how to achieve an absolute majority in 1980, now that its hopes that the FDP might switch coalition partners have disappeared for good. *Hans-Jörg Sottorf*

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 26 October 1978)

FDP plans to clear image at congress

The Free Democrats plan to develop their liberal policies and to make clear statements on political issues at their party conference in Mainz from 12 to 14 November.

Party executive spokesman Günter Verheugen told a press conference in Bonn that the FDP was determined, following its experiences in recent Landtag elections, to increase the number of regular FDP voters. Its success would depend on its ability to establish a clear and independent image.

The 400 delegates to the conference will have to deal with 70 resolutions, with the emphasis on legal and environmental policies, the equality of women and the problems of the family and young people.

In the legal sphere, the question of a milder application of the Extremists Decree will have priority in the debates. Bonn Minister of the Interior Gerhard Baum and parliamentary secretary of state Andreas von Schöler favour abandoning the routine practice of seeking information from the Office for the Protection of the Constitution about public service candidates.

Verheugen said the national party executive would at its meeting on 6 November discuss the subject again and decide if it wanted to put its own resolution to the conference.

The delegates will have to vote for the party leadership again at Mainz, but there is little doubt that party leader Hans-Dietrich Genscher will be re-elected. The question of who else will be on the executive is open.

The North Rhine-Westphalia branch wants to change the party statutes to increase the party leadership from 9 to 11, a move which requires a two-thirds majority of delegates. The intention is to create places for Interior Minister Baum and Economics Minister Lambsdorff.

A group of FDP members and Young Democrats led by the honorary Berlin chairman, William Born, 83, intend to use the conference to remind the FDP of the radical democratic principles of the 1971 Freiburg programme. *dpa*

(Nordwest Zeitung, 27 October 1978)

Mies gets all Communist Party votes

Deutsche Zeitung
Christ und Welt

Herbert Mies was unanimously reelected leader of the German Communist Party (DKP) at the party's annual meeting at Mannheim. His deputy, Hermann Gautier, received 646 of the 647 votes.

Gautier was imprisoned during the 60s for activities on behalf of the then illegal Communist-Party (the KPD).

The election of a dozen mostly women members means the number of DKP members who held leading positions in the old DKP is now around the 80 per cent mark. There was the usual conference call for an alliance of action with the SPD, but this year for the first time cracks appeared in the party monolith.

Eurocommunistic tendencies had to be quashed before the conference could get under way. The anger of some party members over atomic energy (atomic energy in the West is far more dangerous than in the East) also had to be taken into consideration.

A demand that communes should be recognised in the same way as marriage and the family needed toning down, but to make up the party could bask in its qualified success on the question of the *Berufsverbot*.

There was horrified silence at one point as a delegate proposed a "deviating" resolution. The party executive rejected it and a vote was taken: five noes and one abstention. This was the real sensation of the Mannheim party conference.

(Deutsche Zeitung, 27 October 1978)

Civil service: SPD unveils new thinking

Deputy SPD chairman Hans Koschnick has presented his proposals for new principles for use in determining the loyalty to the constitution of public service candidates.

Koschnick's proposals resemble the model operating in Bremen for the past two years. They differ from the recent proposals by Hamburg mayor Klose on one main point: Koschnick considers that the off-duty behaviour of a public servant should also be a criterion for determining his loyalty to the constitution.

Surprising, Koschnick does not make any distinctions in terms of procedures or stringency of requirements between civil servants, and public service wage- and salary-earners. He said all Social Democrat heads of government, including Klose, supported his proposals.

The basic points are:

- The state assumes that members of and candidates for the public service are loyal to the constitution.
- Membership of a party or organisation is "not in itself enough to reject a candidate or dismiss a member of the public service." Only "specific" behaviour (actions, statements and omissions) can be valid grounds for this.
- In deciding whether or not a candidate is acceptable, only facts already available to the employing authority should be taken into account. The current practice of consulting the Office for the Protection of the Constitution (the security service) would be discontinued.
- Requests for information to the security service would only be made where there were grounds for doubting someone's loyalty to the constitution, and in all cases involving the employment of judges, state prosecutors, police and prison officers, professional soldiers and "those people who in the opinion of the politically responsible Minister have positions of special responsibility in the administration".
- Requests for information would only be made when the candidate was about to be employed.
- Only facts which would stand up in a court of law should be used as grounds for rejecting a candidate.
- Information about a candidate's activities before the age of 18, or two years before his application, would not to be taken into account.
- Competence for investigative procedures will lie with the responsible Minister.

Koschnick said the reason for his special proposals for high security areas was that it was important there not just to assume that a candidate was loyal to the constitution but to be certain of it. Membership of the German Communist Party alone would not be a ground for rejecting a candidate, but it would certainly be a reason for investigation.

According to Koschnick's proposals, there would be no investigation or request for information at the beginning of a candidate's preparatory service. Koschnick said the principle of judging people on their behaviour meant that there would have a be a change in disciplinary procedure so that it would be possibly to dismiss public servants "more swiftly."

He attacked Minister of Transport Kurt Gscheidle (SPD) for taking steps against post office workers who were members of the German Communist Party and tolerating members of the neo-Nazi NPD. Koschnick said he saw no reason why a communist could not work as a postman. *Ulrich Lüke*

(Die Welt, 17 October 1978)

MEDIA

Deutsche Welle takes Germany to the world

As soon as Hilarius Hagedorn has carried the last guest's suitcases at the Das Cataratas Hotel near the Iguacu falls in Brazil, he rushes back to his porter's cubbyhole to switch on the radio for the latest sports news.

He is tuned to Cologne's Radio Deutsche Welle (The Voice of Germany), which is faster and more reliable than the local station.

Hilarius' ancestors emigrated to Brazil in the last century, but his German is still passable, and he knows that the country of his ancestors has changed. It does not bother him that German tourists are amused at his old-fashioned name.

There are many Hilarius Hagedorns among Deutsche Welle listeners. Brazil alone has 2.5 million people of German descent, most of them having gone there in the 19th century in various waves of immigration.

This was a time when economic and social condidtions in Germany made thousands of Germans make their homes elsewhere. They went to the United States, Brazil, South-West Africa and Australia. In a special way, Israel, too, ranks among the countries where Germans found new homes.

The emigrants and their descendants never forgot their origins. And today short-wave radio enables them to maintain ties with the old country — something their ancestors never dreamed of.

They receive Deutsche Welle in four-hour broadcasting periods. For the past 25 years The Voice of Germany has been broadcasting to a worldwide audience in 34 languages. But its largest service is in German.

Werner Bader, head of the German department, stresses that the station's function is not merely to broadcast to people of German descent abroad.

"We have no exact statistical data, but the 45,000 letters from listeners we receive every year and polls we conduct from time to time indicate that it is particularly Germans working abroad as development aid assistants or in the Foreign Service for whom Deutsche Welle provides a link with home."

In the past few years these listeners have been joined by those who are learning German.

This structure of listeners makes for problems in devising programmes.

Most listeners have never seen Germany and their idea of the country is somewhat romanticised. Many think that Germany is cleaner and quieter than other countries, including their own. Germany's birds also sing more sweetly, its bells have a more dignified ring, trains are more punctual and people are more successful.

Werner Bader and his 52 colleagues in the German department have no need to pander to the image of a romantic Germany to get a high tune-in quota.

Asked about why The Voice of Germany broadcasts primarily Beethoven, Mozart, Bach, James Last and folk music in its music programmes, Herr Bader says this type of music is usually neglected by radio stations abroad. In any event, music takes up a relatively small space in the programmes.

Most popular are news broadcasts, magazine programmes, commentaries, reports and press reviews. Polls show that 84 per cent of the listeners want these items.

Among other favourites are, surprisingly, such brief items as weather report, stock market quotations, exchange rates and Lotto results. (Lotto is a popular numbers game in which players try to pick six out of 49 numbers).

The wife of a German engineer working in Saudi Arabia recently wrote: "How do you think we feel, coming home from the scorching desert heat, and hearing that its raining in Cologne?"

The fact that the listeners clearly want to hear about today's Germany makes it easier for the station to do justice to their constitutional duty — Deutsche Welle is a public corporation — to present a comprehensive picture of Germany.

But what is "a comprehensive picture of Germany" remains a constant topic of discussion, especially when it has to be presented in day-to-day slices of current events.

The GDR is included in broadcast subjects. Broadcasts take place round the clock in four-hour slots, which are also beamed to the East bloc.

"This used to lead to friction," Herr Bader says, "but today our broadcasts are no longer jammed. Listeners' mail proves that we are being heard there."

Deutsche Welle has every reason to be satisfied. It is the world's fifth largest radio station, ranking after Radio Moscow, Radio Peking, the Voice of America and the BBC. Millions of people throughout the world tune in every day.

Herr Bader's clear satisfaction over the image of his station is nevertheless marred by one thing. As he puts it: "It is the fate of Deutsche Welle to be the best-known station abroad and the least-known at home."

Most people are unaware that Deutsche Welle also provides German tourists in neighbouring countries with an up-to-date and comprehensive review of German events.

Gérard Schmidt

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 23 October 1978)

Call to end broadcast monopoly

According to Ernst-Joachim Mestmöker, chairman of the Monopoly Commission established by the Bonn government, there is no longer any justification for the broadcasting monopoly held by the public corporation networks.

At the annual congress of the Confederation of German Newspaper Publishers in Wiesbafen, Herr Mestmäker said in view of the development of technology, it was no longer possible to bar access to the electronic media to privately-owned broadcasting stations on the grounds that there were not enough frequencies available.

The special political effect of television, also necessitated a "division of power."

Mestmäker argued that individual freedom of opinion in society was particularly jeopardised by the influence of the trade unions' representatives in the supervisory bodies of the networks, and that there was a discrepancy between the media statutes and the economic order.

"The most important example of fundamental harmony between media statutes and economic order is provided by the private ownership structure of the press as the guarantor of independence from the state."

The price for the broadcasting monopoly of the present networks was their mandate from "socially-relevant groups" and, resulting from it, the networks' mandate to present a balanced opinion.

Trade union demands for co-determination and those by the Radio, Film and TV Union (RFFU) that the appointment of an director for personnel questions be made contingent on approval by the works council showed, said Herr Mestmäker, that "a new dimension of jeopardy to freedom of opinion through socially-relevant groups," whose influence must be controlled and restricted by public criticism.

The realisation of such demands would lead to control of the broadcasting networks by one social group.

Television, Mestmäker went on, determined the public's ideas of how to live in harmony with the environment, which issues were important, and which positions required criticism or consensus.

He also criticised the lack of balance and the defamation of privately-owned media organisations in the broadcasts of the networks, expecially recently.

"Those who argued that commercialisation and competition would reduce programmes "to the lowest common denominator of the public's taste" were guilty of "arrogant elitism" which lead them to call majority opinion "moral terrorism."

They thus again laid claim to a hegemony with which to overcome freedom of opinion by maintaining that they knew what moral consciousness the public should have.

Pointing to the experience of competition between the BBC and commercial TV stations in Britain, Herr Mestmäker said vying between different types of broadcasting stations "tends to defuse conflicts of opinion as to what represents a minimum of objective and balanced opinion."

Wolf Gunter Brügmann

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 19 October 1978)

Forces radio brightens airwaves

The hottest British Forces Broadcasting Service story so far came from a radio reporter sitting in a sauna and giving listeners his impressions.

The merry BFBS in Germany is anything but conventional when it comes to presenting atmosphere.

Only a short distence from Radio Free Berlin (SFB), four permanent staff members of BFBS produce a lively programme.

A few kiloherz further along the dial there are similar sounds. The American Forces Network (AFN) broadcasts from a suburban villa in Berlin's Dahlem district, providing its listeners with pop and politics.

Officially, the function of AFN and BFBS is to provide their fellow countrymen with news and entertainment. But both readily admit that most of their listeners are Germans.

BFBS reporter Keith Rawlings, sitting in his studio, does crossword puzzles with his listeners via the telephone.

The magazine programme Post Five broadcast between 5.15 and 7 pm deals with local Berlin issues and has lots of music, casual chat and improvisation — broadcasting at its best.

In a report on Berlin's fire brigade, the garbage collectors were interviewed in English and even the city planning senator allowed himself to be interviewed.

Says the reporter: "He at least spoke English." The language barrier is the biggest problem and it is on this that interviews often founder.

Few politicians or other VIPs are willing to be dragged before a mike to desplay their school English.

In the mornings, Berlin's BFBS broadcasts a programme from its Cologne headquarters.

While SFB and the other civilian Berlin station, RIAS, broadcast Bach, BFBS talks to housewives in its Dave Raven Show from 9.30 am to 1 pm. Listeners can phone in requests and it is generally amusing both at the console in the studio and at home. The Autobahn Song is the theme music before the news.

Berliners have a hard time picking up Radio Luxembourg, but this is made up for by BFBS and AFN.

Rock and pop stars and other entertainers coming to Berlin usually make a call at tiny BFBS.

American and British entertainers also tend to drop in on AFN. And like their fellows at BFBS, the AFN boys know that many of their listeners live in the GDR. They regularly receive letters and even phone calls from the other Germany.

AFN has been in existence since 1945 and with its 40 staff members is almost a professional station.

Their programme on the AM and FM bands is largely music, with much rock and country music.

The morning programme from 6 to 10am begins with general information, including such useful titbits as train schedules and tips about traffic delays. Local matters are very much in the foreground, for example with reports from the "Green Week" agriculture show and the world swimming championships. AFN even went so far as to ask experts for information on rent control.

The station has three newscasts a day. There is also US television whose studios are nearing completion. It broadcasts in colour. In all, the Americans are well supplied with entertainment.

AFN and BFBS are particularly popular with Berliners in the morning, and there is a high tune-in due to the predominance of music.

Berliners who feel that they have had enough English for a while can tune in to "France Inters." But unlike AFN and BFBS, the French get their programme from Paris.

Whatever the differences, all three Allied stations are cosmopolitan.

(Der Tagesspiegel, 22 October 1978)

DEFENCE

Women in uniform: moment to rethink old aversion looms

Women have not yet broken into the ranks of the Bundeswehr, although they already serve in the armies of America, France, Britain, Canada and Denmark and of course in the armies of the Eastern bloc.

"Leber's Charm Brigade," the 35 women doctors whom the former Defence Minister appointed because of the shortage of male doctors, is so far the only female bridgehead in the West German armed forces.

It was expected that the number of women doctors would increase, but this has not happened. As long as the job market for doctors remains as buoyant as it is now, women will not want to swap the numerous advantages of civilian work for a military career.

Yet we can predict that this is going to change. When the falling birth rate begins to affect the number of conscripts at the beginning of the 90s, the Bundeswehr is going to again look to the female population to fill the gaps in its ranks.

In 1994 there will only be 177,000 young men eligible for military service and the Bundeswehr needs 200,000 new conscripts every year.

Whether the people of this country will accept the idea of young women marching through the towns is an open question at the moment. The use of large numbers of women in the Wehrmacht during the Third Reich has left a deep aversion to women in uniform in both German states.

Yet the Bundeswehr was never an all-male affair, even at the beginning. At the moment it employs 50,000 women. As civil servants, clerks and public service workers they work in kitchens and canteens, as cleaning and laundry personnel, in offices and hospitals. Often they do jobs that in other armies are carried out by women in uniform.

The Bundeswehr Association recently looked at the perennial problem of compulsory military service and pointed out the importance of planning ahead in view of the drop in the birth rate.

Bonn Minister of Defence Hans Apel politely skirted the issue, saying that it was not relevant. At present the Bundeswehr has a problem choosing from the high numbers of male conscripts and volunteers and cannot argue that there is any immediate need for women soldiers. Perhaps Apel thinks it is a problem to leave to his successor.

There is already evidence that West German women would not reject out of hand the idea of serving in the armed forces. Bundeswehr officers who have visited schools say there is increasing interest in problems of national defence among girl pupils.

The Ministry of Defence has even received letters from defence-conscious young women asking about their chances of being accepted and saying that they would even be prepared to bear arms if necessary.

Nurses in Bundeswehr hospitals would be only too glad to wear Bundeswehr NCO uniforms if they had the chance. Here, too, the Ministry of Defence has had to apply the brakes. There are enough male first aid men, especially now that Bundeswehr-trained first aid men are recognised as qualified for similar work in civilian life.

Hannoversche Allgemeine

There is a considerable difference between volunteering to do first aid work in the army and conscripting people, as the Bundeswehr Association suggests. Armies which for reasons of sexual equality or shortage of men have admitted women have not had any reason to reverse the decision.

Apart from combat units in the army, navy and air force, women can perform most tasks that need to be done in modern armies. Weapons developments have meant that most activities take place well away from the front line: reinforcements, military intelligence, radar control, the maintenance and repair of equipment — these are all jobs which women can do just as well as men.

Women soldiers also work in huge administrative offices and staff headquarters where there are vast amounts of paperwork to be done.

Matters can become difficult when the combination of compulsory military service and tough military training affects women as much as men, as is the case in Israel. The Israeli army was the only army in the world to introduce compulsory military service for women, because this was the only way of keeping military service down to three years.

Israel's experience of women soldiers has been quite positive. They have to take tough basic training in shooting, sport and sentry duty, as well as going on long marches through mountainous country, so that military service is far from attractive to Israeli women.

Although women do not fight at the front, and even in the fighting battalions work behind the front in the staff command, Israeli politicians are worried about the high rate of refusal to do military service among women. This has meant that of the 110,000 people in the Israeli armed forces, only 12,000 are women.

The integration of women into the armed forces has made most progress in the US. At the moment there are 120,000 women soldiers in the US army and by 1980 the figure should be 200,000. If they complete their officer training, they can even become generals and admirals.

In the US's elite military academies they are subjected to the same rigorous military training as their male fellow-sufferers. They are face the same anachronistic drill. To the endless bawling of their superiors, they have to walk, stand to attention, march and run. They beat one another with wooden batons until one person is incapable of further combat.

Only when the doctors noticed that because of their lighter bones and weaker muscles they were getting muscle strains and fractures were women excused from boxing, wrestling and football.

Once they have this torture behind them, they are considered fit to be sent to the country's top universities at the state's expense.

Things will never reach this stage in West Germany. Article 12 of the Basic Law forbids women to bear arms. The 1968 Emergency Laws amended article 12 to say that women could in wartime be required to serve in the civilian first aid service and in "local military hospitals" if there were enough volunteers. At the time the Bundestag assumed that enough women would volunteer so that there would be no need to compel them to serve by law.

Whether compulsory military service for women is discussed in terms of the falling birth rate or of equality between the sexes, it is difficult to imagine that people in this country would accept the idea. In a poll in 1975, 55 per cent rejected the idea of compulsory military and civilian service for women.

Hans-Anton Papendieck

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 19 October 1978)



Falling in: two of the first women doctors appointed to the Bundeswehr by former Defence Minister Georg Leber join their colleagues for lunch at the Bundeswehr Medical Academy. They are (left) Dr Eva Neuland and Dr Doris von Rottkay. (Photo: dpa)



Hard task ahead: Deputy Inspector-General Hans Poeppel, who will have the job of carrying out the Bundeswehr reforms from next April. (Photo: J. H. Darchinger)

Last Post for Bundeswehr old guard

DIE WELT

A generation shift is taking place in the Bundeswehr: in a few years none of the Bundeswehr generals will have had World War Two experience as company commanders.

By the time all the generals with World War Two exprience will have retired. One of the last of the old guard is Hans Poeppel, who will take office as Inspector of the army in April 1979.

Poeppel, who is now Deputy Inspector-General under General Wust, will replace Lieutenant-General Horst Hildebrandt. Hildebrandt reaches the retirement age of 60 next spring.

Poeppel will face a difficult task. He will have to carry out the army organisational reforms known as Army Model 4, planned by General Hildebrandt for many years. In November the Minister responsible will give the go-ahead.

All military planners at the Bonn Ministry of Defence realise that no-one is likely to be satisfied with the result.

Army Model 4 will suffer from the fact that despite the demands on the number and quality of personnel and the introduction of new weapons systems, Defence Minister Hans Apel has not increased the military budget by a single deutschemark.

Poeppel's task will be to try to ensure that nobody notices the lack of money. This is a problem no-one can solve and no-one knows this better than Poeppel.

He is already working for General Wust on the new conception of the army.

Here the Minister of Defence's appointment of Poeppel to be head of the army for the next three years was felicitous.

During his Bundeswehr career, Poeppel kept a balance between being a commander and work in the general staff.

Rüdiger Moniac

(Die Welt, 24 October 1978)

■ ECONOMY

Growth up, jobless down say research groups

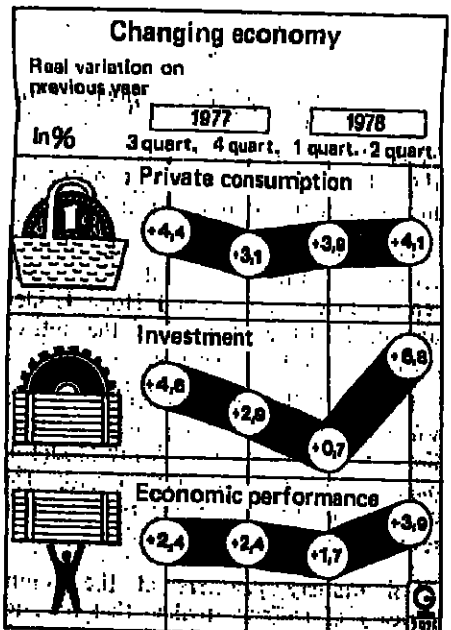
The joint autumn forecast for 1979 by the five foremost economic research institutes predicts a higher growth rate, a continued drop in the number of jobless and higher inflation rates.

The study, presented in Bonn on 23 October, holds that the number of unemployed will for the first time fall below the one million mark annual average this year, but that this is in no way satisfactory.

The cautious optimism displayed by Bonn and some business associations in the past few weeks has not been shared by all research institutes.

While the majority assume that the GNP growth rate, estimated at 3 to 3.5 per cent for this year, will rise to 4 per at in 1979, Essen's Rhineland-Westphalian Institute expects only a 3 to 3.5 per cent growth for that year. Last spring, the institutes predicted a 2.5 per cent growth rate for 1978.

The recovery next year will primarily be carried by domestic demand, the pundits say. But since the institutes expect only moderate growth in the other European countries with whom Germany trades, and since developments in the United States could even show a negative trend, exports as a locomotive must largely be discounted.



On the drop in unemployment by about 50,000, the institutes say this is not only due to the increase in employment but also to foreign workers returning home and because more use is being made of early retirement. While the number of jobless is dropping, the institutes nevertheless consider unemployment "intolerably high".

The increase in the inflation rate from a 2.5 per cent average in 1978 to 3.5 per cent next year is primarily due to government measures, among them the increase of postal rates, radio and television licence fees and higher premiums for automobile insurance.

Since the deutschemark will not continue to appreciate at the same rate, imported goods will not become cheaper to the same extent as before.

Food prices are likely to rise, and the increase in VAT next year will be passed on.

Since it is not impossible that growth will diminish after 1979, it is important to improve conditions for growth, employment and price stability, the institutes say.

Fiscal policy must now chart the course beyond next year. Above all, investments in the public sector must not be permitted to stagnate or, even worse, diminish.

Business must also have a clear idea of the development of costs and the fiscal policy. The state should promote faith in the future by making it clear that it will not try to consolidate the budget via higher taxation but by reducing current expenditures.

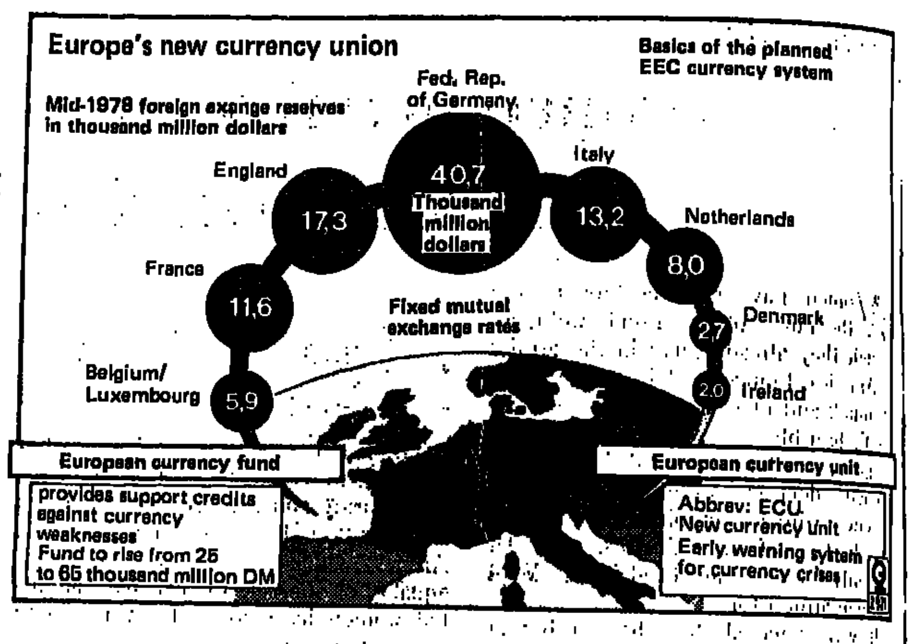
The institutes point particularly to the reduction of subsidies which have no effect on economic growth.

A further recovery, however, can only be secured if new labour disputes are avoided. Wage policy, too, must orientate itself by medium-term possibilities and necessities.

The institutes call for wage deals that would take the position of the industry concerned into account and reflect the degrees of labour shortage.

Hans-Jürgen Mahnke

(Die Welt, 23 October 1978)



EMS runs into stiff resistance pocket

While politicians generally appear confident that the European Monetary System (EMS) can come into force early next year, there is growing resistance to the system from experts.

The viewpoint of the advisory council at the Economic Affairs Ministry, the Work Group of Economic Research Institutes and the Kiel-based Institute for the World Economy can be summed up as follows: the proposed European Monetary System is damaging to the economy, superfluous or pointless.

All three statements on EMS boil down to this:

- If we do not succeed in making the economic policymakers of the participating countries pursue monetary stability, either the economically more stable countries (like the Federal Republic of Germany) will have to release the inflation brake or the system will disintegrate, as has the Bretton Woods System and the original Big Snake.
- If economic policy is harmonised and a uniform inflation rate achieved (what matters is not how high it is but that it be uniform) the exchange rates will also remain stable, making an institutionalised system redundant.
- If the enforced harmonisation of economic policy through frequent exchange rate adjustments within a given margin is made less stringent, the system as a whole is pointless because it will not even provide the alleged advantages of being able to figure with fixed rates.

All the comments term stability policy in the participating countries the most important prerequisite for a system of more fixed exchange rates that would promote economic and political integration.

The work group of the five economic research institutes is most outspoken on the prospects: "There is no chance of adequately reducing inflation rates within the foreseeable future ... Even if the stability objectives of the European countries differ less than *at the discussion* on the establishment of the European Monetary System, *the* starting position for an EMS *that would* include all members of the Community is less favourable than it was then. Inflation rates now range from 2.5 to 12 per cent. In 1972, the range was from 5 to 8 per cent."

Pointing to the necessary money supply policy in the next yeats, the institutes explain how much integration in a European Monetary System would harm German economic policy.

According to them, the Bundesbank should reduce expansion of the money supply to proportions in keeping with stability aims. This would be achieved by reducing the current money supply expansion of 10 to 11 per cent to between 6 and 7 per cent towards the end of 1979. 6/3

Even then the annual average would still be a relatively high 9 per cent increase.

But should this rate be reduced, the institutes fear economic recovery would be endangered without achieving a marked extra reduction of the inflation rate.

"A course in keeping with monetary stability objectives can only be maintained if the Bundesbank is not forced to buy large amounts of foreign exchange under the new monetary system. Only then will it be able to adjust the money supply to the requirements of the capital markets. In that case the Bundesbank would be free to secure the supply of business with central bank money by purchasing domestic securities and thus countering excessive interest rate increase expectations which might be caused by a reduced expansion of the money supply."

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 24 October 1978)

Third World aid boosts order book

About 64 per cent of German capital aid to the Third World flows back into the German economy in orders, says a study by the Bank for Reconstruction.

This is not changed by the fact that German capital aid has in almost all cases not been contingent on purchases from this country since 1973. According to Development Aid Minister Rainer Offergeld, the federal government grants more than 90 per cent of development aid without strings attached.

In his view, this method has proved its worth. The Federal Republic of Germany depends on foreign trade without obstacles.

"The increased protectionist trend can only be countered credibily if we enable the developing countries to buy on the world markets most favourable to them," says Herr Offergeld.

This makes German development aid particularly valuable, according to Herr Offergeld, because studies show that the freedom to buy on various world markets represents a price advantage of between 10 and 20 per cent for the developing countries.

Herr Offergeld considers it a sign of the German economy's excellent performance that even without the condition that foreign aid money be used for purchases in this country, two-thirds of capital aid flows back into German business.

This secures more than 40,000 jobs in this country.

According to a study by the Bank for Reconstruction, the flow-back rate has been considerably higher in the past few years.

Since actual payments of credits granted frequently occur at intervals of several years, pre-1973 credits granted with strings are still helping German business.

The proportion actually reflecting German competitiveness is gradually crystallising now. The share of German shipments fell from 79 per cent in 1974 to 73 per cent in 1975 and 65 per cent in 1976, losing another percentage point last year.

But of the 36 per cent capital aid which does not flow back to Germany in orders, one-third is used for business among developing countries themselves.

The balance benefits other industrialised countries, Britain and Japan profiting to the tune of four per cent each, Switzerland, the United States and France each gaining three per cent.

In absolute terms, of the 1.6 billion deutschemarks in capital aid in 1977, 1.4 billion went to various supplier nations. Of this, 890 million was used for payments to German companies and 172 million went to other developing countries in orders. *Hans-Jürgen Mahnke*

(Die Welt, 20 October 1978)

■ TRANSPORT

Shipyards warn: 1979 is industry's crisis year



Next year will be critical for the West German shipbuilding industry, says Werner Schirmer of Bremen's Vulkan shipyard.

He told a press conference held to discuss the company's balance sheet that Vulkan, which only a few years ago could boast of ten million yard working hours, had only six million in 1977.

A further drop is expected this year.

Not long ago, when mammoth tankers were still being built, the Vulkan yard used twice as much steel as it does now.

Herr Schirmer said it was impossible to compete against tenders from Korean yards which were 30 per cent lower than German bids.

The AG Weser yard last year began to speak of reducing staff.

Chairman of the Board Heinz Ache (who is also spokesman for the German shipbuilders' association) said the next two years would be the hardest ever for the shipbuilding industry.

The emergency programme of Germany's shipbuilders for the next few years is spartan. Production hours (in 1975, 55 million) are to be reduced by more than half by 1980, to 23.4 million.

In 1970, the last reasonably good year for Germany shipbuilders, the industry employed 71,000 workers. This figure has now dwindled to 55,000 and will drop to 50,000 by 1980.

There is no cause for optimism either, contrary to the forecast of the Bremen Institute for Shipping, which in a recent study saw light ahead.

The institute pointed to the fall in the tonnage of mothballed ships by five per cent as a sign of better days ahead.

True, a few bulk carriers have been recommissioned but this means little considering that 800 seagoing ships of more than 300 tons, totalling 30 million GRT, are laid up around the world at present.

This country's merchant fleet, including fishing vessels, stood at 9.2 million GRT in 1976. But three times this tonnage is laid up.

In any event, in mid-1978 Germany's 45 shipyards had orders for only 650,000 GRT, equalling 2.1 per cent of global shipbuilding.

There were times when German yards accounted for eight per cent of new construction. Says Herr Ache tersely: "Our yards have no orders worth mentioning for 1980."

The accusation that German yards did too little to safeguard competitiveness in the boom years has been rejected by executives, who say there has not been any genuine competition in the shipbuilding industry for years.

Considering that foreign yards are subsidised up to 50 per cent of construction costs, it is obvious that there can no longer be any competition.

As a result — and this is the only reason — Germany's shipbuilders have called for additional subsidies. But this could well mean that former competition would turn into a race for subsidies.

The suggestion by the industry that an initial subsidy of 20 per cent of building costs be granted is relatively moderate. This is to apply to all orders received between 1 July 1978 and 30 June 1980.

If the order books remain as they are, the state will get away cheaply.

There is already a dispute about the economic logic of such assistance even before it is granted. But then, is there any logic left in the industry?

Even more precarious than the position of the big yards is that of medium and small companies.

The big ones in many cases merged before the crisis or are part of major concerns in other sectors.

Apart from the five biggest, there are more than 40 medium-sized yards which built 375 ships between 1975 and 1977, (total construction in that time was 490 units).

Distorted competition conditions in the shipbuilding industry have caused German yards to look sharply at Japan's highly-developed shipbuilders.

Last year's promise that Japanese yards would restrict their share in global new construction to less than 50 per cent shows where the orders of the past few years went. In any event, this undertaking has not had any marked effect on the other 50 per cent of building capacity.

The Japanese shipbuilders' association said at the time that its members would not accept orders from German shipping companies and that they would be prepared to impose "self-restrictions on ship exports to the Federal Republic of Germany."

The Bonn Economic Affairs Ministry said this and Japan's decision to raise export prices was a small step in the right direction.

But that was 18 months ago, and it is unknown whether Chancellor Schmidt followed the matter up during his recent visit to Japan.

Among the things German shipbuilders want are:

- Improvement of investment conditions for shipowners.
- More government orders.
- Additional capital aid for shipbuilding orders from developing countries.
- State subsidies for new construction of up to 20 per cent of building costs.

Among the suggestions on how to get out of the doldrums is also the proposal that obsolete ships be withdrawn. But it will be very difficult to agree on what is "obsolete."

More feasible is the special programme by the Development Aid Ministry that would guarantee DM800 million worth of shipbuilding to the developing countries.

Half of these orders are already signed, sealed and delivered, and the yards are only waiting for follow-up orders to be able to plan for a somewhat longer period. *Helmut Roesler*

(Deutsche Zeitung, 30 October 1978)

Port cities courting for new sailmates

The Transport 78 exhibition at Munich's fairgrounds is dominated by the chrome of futuristic long-haul buses, outshining the plain single and double-decker vehicles and the conveyor belts and confusing transport systems on show.

Outdoors there are special railroad fright cars, space-age lorries, dumpers, container loaders and mammoth, multi-axle freight carriers.

Transport 78 is the first attempt to provide a comprehensive review of all aspects of transport. The show has attracted experts seeking suitable vehicles and contacts, and the organisers expect about 10,000 trade visitors.

According to Ludwig Bölkow, the chairman of the organisers' advisory council, the unusual thing about the show is the "novel attempt to show the present achievements of the transport sector for both goods and people to all interested parties."

Most interesting is the largest of the three halls where several port cities, among them Hamburg, Bremen, Kiel, Trieste, Fiume, Venice and Genoa, are represented. Major carriers such as Hapag-Lloyd, the Bundesbahn and its subsidiaries and Lufthansa have their exhibits there.

There are no objects on show but the cities and companies vie to present an atmosphere. Large posters show the port of Hamburg around the turn of the century — perhaps because photographs of today's harbour might not be quite so *gemütlich*. The picture is rounded off by coils of cordage and beer kegs.

Hapag-Lloyd has created a particularly intimate atmosphere with mood lighting at the bar and relics of the good old steamship days.

The visitor might asks what all this has to do with a transport show. Hapag-Lloyd Chairmsan Hans Jakob Kruse, who was surrounded by people on opening day, sees things differently. "We urgently need contact with our shippers and nothing is easier than to go where most of our old and potential new customers are likely to be," he said.

This was particularly important when the competition was also on the spot.

"You can see for yourself how happy our customers are to be able at last to talk to the chief executive in person — especially here in Bavaria, so far from the coast," said G. Simonsen, head of the shipping company's press department, pointing to Herr Kruse surrounded by visitors.

The Hamburg port authority thought along similar lines. The competing Adriatic ports being there too, the Hamburg representatives are making an all-out effort to offset their geographical disadvantage by rpoviding information and by being charming in a relaxed atmosphere.

It cannot be denied that the exhibitors might be successful. And if they are successful the fair must be a success.

The question is whether this "new presentation," as Herr Bölkow called it, will meet its own objectives: to present new transport systems and to provide information on what will be feasible in the next few years.

But perhaps the organisers also wanted this to apply to the specialist congresses and seminars which took place.

(Die Welt, 20 October 1978)

Better air traffic systems vital experts told

New systems must be developed for air traffic control because world traffic density is likely to double in the next 20 years, Professor Karl Karwarth told the Hamburg congress of DGON, the German navigation society.

The congress dealt mainly with traffic safety in shipping, aviation and on land.

Theoreticians and practitioners read 28 papers on possibilities of improving traffic safety through better position fixing and navigation methods.

Professor Karwarth said today's control systems would not be able to cope with future air traffic. In addition, fuel economy could only be achieved by choosing the most favourable "flight profile" and this presupposed improved flight control and flight safety.

As a short-term objective, he called for the introduction of a new microwave landing system which, based on German preliminary work, is now being developed in the United States. This will allow aircraft to land in fog, thus eliminating a major danger.

Captain Günter Zade, professor at Bremen's Navigation School, said too many accident causes in shipping could not be clearly established.

Frequently, accidents were due to human error, especially by officers and seamen with below-average training sailing under flags of convenience.

As a result, DGON is in favour of raising minimum qualifications, though realising that it is very difficult to reach agreement at conferences attended by 100 countries.

Captain Zade sees increased traffic as the main problem on shipping routes. The number of ships is increasing all the time (as is their size), and they are carrying more and more dangerous cargo.

As a result, Captain Zade said, it was necessary to instal radar stations along the coast and harbour approaches — as has already been done on the Elbe — to provide external assistance and information.

Position fixing and navigational problems for land vehicles have only recently entered DGON's field.

The growing number of vehicles — there are 22 million private cars and caravans in West Germany — leads to constant traffic jams and high accident rates.

It is therefore necessary to develop systems to measure range and sound an alarm.

Germany has already made considerable progress here, based on the principle that the decision on how to react to a warning should rest with the driver.

Guiding and information systems, dubbed ALI, are now being tested. Their aim is to prevent bottlenecks and provide the driver with information on alternative routes in good time.

Dieter F. Hertel

(Die Welt, 19 October 1978)

■ **MOTORING**

Parking for residents plan proves success

DIE ZEIT

Residents' parking permits in Mannheim city centre are proving successful, says borough engineer and surveyor Niels Gormsen.

"Serious legal or practical problems have yet to occur," he said. This was anything but a foregone conclusion.

Permits divide motorists into two categories: the chosen few allowed to park in restricted city-centre zones and the commuting plebs who run a daily risk of a parking ticket.

Trouble began when Mannheim strictly rationed parking space in the city centre. Where there were no parking meters, there would almost invariably be a daylight parking ban.

People who live in the city centre felt they were doubly victimised. With so many motorists commuting it was already difficult to find somewhere near home to park. Now they were penalised by traffic wardens.

Wardens wrote out parking tickets without discrimination. They had no way of telling whether the owner was parked outside his own home or had come in from the suburbs.

But where else was a resident to park? Victims started pressure groups to impress on the city council that they had little option but to break the law day after day.

The authorities acknowledged that they had a justified complaint and introduced residents' parking permits in an area where 8,000 people live in 3,800 homes and own 2,500 motor vehicles registered at a city-centre address.

Each household is entitled to one green parking permit. It costs DM10 and lists the holder's car registration number, name and address. So far there are 600 satisfied users.

Burgomaster Gormsen is keeping his fingers crossed that no problems will arise, since the distinction between categories of of motorist is illegal.

But Bonn Housing Minister Dieter Haack would like to swiftly legalise the permits Mannheim has pioneered for the past year.

Permits form part of a package designed to ease and improve city-centre living: pedestrian precincts, restricted access, speed limits of 30 km/h (20mph) and roads blocked at one end to discourage motorists other than residents.

The aim is not to make life even more difficult for the harried motorist but to improve the quality of urban life.

Many city centres are dead and deserted at night as more and more city-dwellers and ratepayers move out to the suburbs. But there is a fair chance of halting or even reversing the trend.

People are increasingly realising that towns simply cannot be made to suit the motor car. You cannot live, work, park and drive in town and reconcile all these things.

A difficulty faced by families who return to the city centre is that there is nowhere to park. Places are snapped up by either commuters or shoppers.

People who live in the centre of Bonn, for instance, don't look forward to the monthly flea market. Cars are parked in every available space and cruising drivers bring traffic to a standstill.

Side roads normally used by residents are transformed into highways where pedestrians and children must live with heavy traffic, noise and pollution.

Yet parking lots within easy walking distance of the city centre are deserted. Motorists hate to be more than a short distance from their cars.

So planners may well have to abandon dreams of modernising beautiful but dilapidated inner-city homes. Rents are sure to rocket after modernisation, and tenants who can afford them will continue to vote with their feet until parking problems are solved.

Back yards could possibly be converted into parking lots, but it is not the most heartening prospect. A panorama of parked cars seen through the kitchen or bedroom window is no improvement on even the most forlorn patch of greenery.

Underground car parks are an alternative, but a limited one. They cannot be built everywhere and are expensive.

So why not restrict roadside parking to residents who live, shop, pay taxes and help to give city-centre areas much of the character they possess?

Besides, residents' parking permits are nothing new in other countries. Housing Minister Haack may only just be getting round to legalising them, but in neighbouring France, for instance, they have long been in use.

They help to ensure that residents have somewhere to park, discourage through traffic and commuters or shoppers who find parking lots scarce and expensive.

Besançon has made all main roads clearways, with parking banned entirely except on Sundays and holidays. Access is also limited to buses, taxis, residents, delivery vehicles and esential services.

Access to hotels is permitted and doctors, ambulances and dustmen are allowed in. So are cyclists. Residents and delivery vehicles are issued with special permits.

All other traffic is banned. Outside offenders are fined up to 200 francs on the spot. Residents who disregard the rules may lose their permits.

The change has been startling. Traffic outside Besançon city centre is much the same as before, but through traffic in the city centre is down from 40 to 18 per cent.

Through traffic is down, access traffic is up. Pedestrian precincts have been extended. Pedestrian traffic is up, retailers report higher turnover, and traffic noise and exhaust fumes are down.

The authorities are satisfied with the results: "Revitalisation of the city centre has been accomplished for all social groups, improving access, quality of life and urban mobility as a whole."

Compared with traffic restrictions in Singapore, Besançon's measures are fairly modest. In the rush hour access to the city centre and inner suburbs of Singapore is limited to licence-holders.

Licences cost DM80 a month, parking costs as much again. In return for these draconian measures against commuters Singapore has a park-and-ride public transport system that comes much cheaper.

Traffic restrictions in Singapore have proved strikingly effective. Commuters driving to the city between 7.30 and 10.15am have fallen from 43,000 to 11,000.

The overall volume of city-centre rush-hour traffic is down about 45 per cent. Twenty-five per cent of through traffic has taken an alternative route, the remainder drives through the city outside permit hours.

Public transport has benefited. The number of passengers carried is up 15.4 per cent. Bus mileage is up 18.8 per cent. Fare revenue is up 20.5 per cent.

Residents can breathe again. The nitrous oxide and carbon monoxide counts are down. So is the number of traffic accidents.

The London borough of Kensington and Chelsea is a densely populated inner suburb with 327 inhabitants per hectare and 200,000 residents to keep happy. It has set aside 24,000 roadside parking bays for 27,000 permit-holders. Permits are issued to residents on application at 90 pfennigs a day or DM140 a year.

Bonn does not propose to capitalise on residents' parking problems. The only charge will be a small fee for the permit, says Herr Neusüss of the Housing Ministry.

Local authority officials from Munich have studied the London permit system and set down their findings:

"Restricted parking zones were found to be used by permit-holders only. Traffic was low to moderate. The system seems to have gained acceptance."

It has substantially reduced traffic noise and nuisance in residential areas. Licence-holders no longer have much difficulty in finding somewhere near home to park. Even the automobile clubs have abandoned initial misgivings and are convinced the system makes sense.

The motoring lobby has yet to comment officially on Bonn's plans for residents' permits, but ADAC, the Munich-based automobile association, is aware of the problem.

"In principle we are in favour of doing something for residents in densely-populated city-centre areas," a spokesman says. "But it must be something sensible."

Wolfgang Hoffmann

(Die Zeit, 20 October 1978)



Three for the road

Taking the middle way: a Stuttgart engineer unveils an unusual three-seater car to the Association of German Engineers congress in Nuremberg. The idea is that by cutting the number of seats down to three and putting the driver in the middle, the risk of injury from side-on smashes can be greatly diminished. (Photo: dpa)

Drivers not cars cause deaths – road safety chief

Münchner Merkur

Cars may improve in mechanical performance but motorists remain human, Road Safety Council chairman Gerhard Schork said at the beginning of a campaign organised with the Bavarian region of TÜV, the agency that supervises roadworthiness tests.

Technical defects accounted for a mere three per cent of road accidents, he said, whereas human failure was to blame nine times out of ten.

These figures did not necessarily mean that all but a tiny percentage of motor vehicles involved in accidents were mechanically sound or that limits of technical perfection had been reached.

The Road Safety Council was relying on appeals and campaigns to reduce accident figures further. Education was the right way, Herr Schork said, even though West Germany had one of the worst road safety records in the Common Market.

Asked how many road deaths this "right way" failed to prevent every year, he said the question could not be put in this form. Road discipline only improved temporarily when penalties were imposed, as in the United States. *asd.*

(Münchner Merkur, 23 October 1978)

■ PERFORMING ARTS

An intellectual manhunt that just fails

DIE WELT



Searching for the truth: Angela Winkler and Bruno Ganz in Reinhard Hauff's *Messer im Kopf*, which won the International Critics' Prize in Paris. (Photo: Filmverlag der Autoren)

Reinhard Hauff's latest film, *Messer im Kopf* (Knife in the head) is the tale of a microbiologist, Hoffmann, played by Bruno Ganz, who goes to a youth centre to fetch his wife, who works there.

When he arrives, he finds the place swarming with police, who believe the centre to be the base of Communist, and possibly even of terrorist, activities. Hoffmann is only interested in his wife and tries to force his way through the police ranks. A policeman shoots him in the head, almost killing him.

Hoffmann's life is saved in a neurological intensive care unit, where he slowly regains his lost capacities and his damaged linguistic and word-formation centres are repaired. A large and excellent part of the film is devoted to this recovery.

But the police now believe Hoffmann to be a terrorist and hound him cruelly even while he is in hospital. Hoffmann's wife and her political friends regard his case as excellent material for agitation. Hoffmann, on the other hand, just wants to know what really happened. He cannot remember. The policeman claims that Hoffmann attacked him with a knife.

Hoffmann does not know the truth. He fights against weakness, when he feels left alone, when neither his wife, his friends nor his opponents, the police, see any point in pursuing the case.

He goes to see the policeman in his flat and forces him to confess that he shot out of fear. He manages to reenact the scene, this time the other way round. Now Hoffmann is holding a gun to the policeman's head. At this point the film fades out.

Hauff superbly maintains the style of a laconic but thorough report throughout, with Bruno Ganz giving one of his finest performances as the hunted man. Yet the probable intention of Hauff and screenplay writer Schneider is not realised: to tell the story of an innocent intellectual suddenly taken for a terrorist.

The hunt for an innocent man who has been made a victim by a police lie has long been the subject of international reality and international cinema. The police, represented by three nasty cops, are portrayed unsympathetically but not particularly realistically.

Social criticism is submerged in the familiar thriller genre and the political argument seems superimposed. This could just as easily be the story of a man wrongfully accused of being a member of an ordinary gang of criminals.

This is a pity, because Hauff's impetus is impressive and his talent is considerable within the framework of the tough (but perhaps too clean and highly polished) genre of the German thriller.

Only Hauff knows what he meant when he told Parisian journalists that the film was a metaphor — no doubt he meant a parable — of the situation of bourgeois intellectuals in the Federal Republic of Germany today. His Parisian audience were not quite convinced that innocent people are shot by the police in this country "every day."

An underground sequence in the film is the only indication that the action takes place in Munich. Otherwise the film has no specific locale and is played out in a country we can never identify exactly.

This did not bother Parisian film critics. They awarded Hauff the International Critics' Prize and 77 French journalists awarded him Paris television's Golden Aerial prize.

Christian Ferber

(Die Welt, 14 October 1978)

Donaueschingen is festival of premieres

This year's Donaueschingen music festival ended with four world premieres, three commissioned by Südwestfunk Baden-Baden.

The festival of contemporary music which has been presenting modern composers, many of whom have since become widely recognised, with a forum since 1921, has this year continued its trend of moving out of the experimental phase.

All that remains of previous experimental festivals is the use of modern technology. The tendency by which composers tried to make names by presenting unusual and even provocative music has not survived.

The four thousand people who attended the three-day festival were ample testimony to continuing interest. Südwestfunk, co-organisers with the Donaueschingen Friends of Music, were at one time toying with the idea of scrapping the festival but the success this year has prevented that happening.

Interest on the last day of the festival was centred on the composition *Tombeau d'Armor III* by 32-year-old Italian Giuseppe Sinopoli. Sinopoli, who was given a professorship in Venice at the age of 26, paid tribute in this work to the conductor Bruno Maderna, who advised him to reintroduce melody into modern classical music.

The Südwestfunk Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Ernest Bour, with Siegfried Palm as cello soloist, presented a world premiere which delighted the audience of over a thousand.

For the world premiere of Vectors by the 30-year-old Briton James Ingram, the 18 instrumentalists had to arrange themselves in a pattern of equilateral triangles. This work of indeterminate length was composed in the house of Karl-Heinz Stockhausen and is generally

Continued on page 11

Ligeti's 'anti-opera' is impressive move into unorthodox

The Hamburg State Opera recently performed the opera *Le Grand Macabre* by György Ligeti, a Hungarian born in Rumania in 1923 who now lives in Hamburg.

The work, first performed in Stockholm six months ago, was originally meant to be an anti-opera but ended up as an anti-anti-opera, that is, an opera. Ligeti has moved away from the rigid schematism of avant-garde experimentation and introduced new and unorthodox elements of sensuousness into modern opera. The German premiere was an impressive demonstration of the power and durability of this work.

Ligeti spent many years looking for a libretto before he came across The Ballad of the Great Macabre by Flemish author Michael de Gheldcrode. This work is absurd theatre. Ligeti was interested in the "comic-like, cartoon-like and grotesque aspects" of this work and, together with Michael Meschke, director of the Stockholm puppet theatre, rewrote it as an opera text.

The central figure is the mysterious Necrotsar (Emperor of the Dead) who, with his hour-glass and scythe, the attributes of death, suddenly appears in Breughelland and says he is going to bring about the end of the world. He then drinks so much that he is incapable of action at the decisive midnight hour.

In its various episodes this is an uncommonly imaginative, lively and original plot and Ligeti's composition is up to the same standard. The multiplicity of the stylistic and musical elements he uses is such that it cannot be categorised. Ligeti is first and foremost Ligeti, though he does not hesitate to use elements from various musical styles and epochs. These range from the instrumental introduction for car horns inspired by Monteverdi's trumpet fanfares (in the first act), to bicycle bells (in the second act), to the use of traditional musical forms, such as the passacaglia, which he uses in a completely new way. Despite these borrowings, the effect is highly individual and characteristic.

The danger in directing such an ebullient work is of the director failing to cope. This does not happen in Hamburg. Gilbert Deflo and stage designer Ekkehard Grübler chose the comparatively strict method of artificial clowning. All four acts take place inside a circus tent which was easily changed between scenes by moving boxes. Lamps around the stage and the entrance to the tent emphasised the illusory aspect. Clowns played walk-on parts, did the scene-changes and acted as stage musicians.

The costumes and masks of the main characters are almost grotesque. Deborah Browne plays Mescalina with voluptuous curves that look likely to burst through her tight leotard. Hildegard Uhrmacher, with her fine coloratura soprano, plays the head of the secret police, and Kevin Smith, counter-tenor, is the infantile prince Go-go.

Ude Kredow plays the part of court astrologer, Astradamor, who is dominated by his wife Mescalina. Peter Haage plays the inveterate boozer Draught Pete. Dieter Weller, as Necrotsar, did not come across strongly and vocally failed to use all the possibilities of the part.

This was the only (but far from unimportant) weak link in a performance which showed that contemporary opera, so often pronounced dead, has life in it yet.

Edgar Howarth, who conducted the Stockholm premiere, ensured that the musical side passed off smoothly. The audience reaction was mixed, with boos and cheers battling it out.

Gerhart Asche

(Bremer Nachrichten, 17 October 1978)

Anti-anti-opera that ended up as opera: Dieter Weller and Deborah Browne in the Hamburg State Opera production of Ligeti's *Le Grand Macabre*. (Photo: Fritz Peyer)

■ WRITING

Frankfurt bookmen look to the world of children

The motto of this year's Frankfurt Book Fair was The Child and the Book, and the main themes were the problems of foreign children in West Germany and the Third World in children's books.

A two-day seminar dealt with "the children of foreign workers and their literature," discussing statistics which are going to have an important effect on the country's social structure: in 1976 there were 838,000 foreign children in West Germany; in 1975, forty-two per cent of babies born in Frankfurt were the children of foreign workers. The figure for the country as a whole is 20 per cent and increasing.

These figures are significant enough, but what is even more so is that only a third of foreign children have the chance of taking the elementary school-leaving certificate.

An important conclusion reached at the seminar was that something has to be done about these children's alienation from their own culture before they can be integrated into German society. Integration must not mean the destruction of the children's own cultural identity.

The exhibition on the Third World in children's books was just as important as the seminar. It drew attention to children's books in which peoples, societies and conditions in the Third World are described objectively and without distortion.

Also on show were books in which clichés and prejudices were passed on and not only to children and young people. The organisers of the exhibition had gone through catalogues, bibliographies and publishers' lists and found about 900 books dealing with the Third World.

Thus a connection was established between this year's theme, The Book and The Child, and Latin America, the theme in 1976. It was agreed firstly children are a suppressed minority in our society; secondly, that children have a right to read books suitable for them; and thirdly, that children have a right to the truth.

Fair director Peter Weidhaas said the exhibition on the image of the Third World in children's books also said something about our own situation.

These are undoubtedly important words. Incomprehensible, however, and not only for children, was Herr Weidhaas's remark that this was "a fairly comprehensive programme with critical intentions, but certainly no children's spectacle."

It certainly was not easy for children. A "official" information sheet prodiced by pupils aged from 15 to 17 told the following tale: "A fair inspector brought a girl called Katja to us and explained that she had lost her father. Katja's eyes were already swollen with crying.

"Of course we looked after her and tried to cheer her up a little. We walked her around our office. Two of us went off to have her father's name called out over the public address system.

"These efforts were a complete failure. Fair officials refused the request on the grounds that anyone could come along and tell such a story. This would mean that no-one would pay attention to the announcements over the public address system. If something serious such as a bomb scare took place, no one would take any notice."

Rudij Bergmann

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 23 October 1978)

Contunued from page 10

considered the vehicle and the catalyst of that composer's theoretical work.

Herbert Henck gave the first performance of Music for Piano and Orchestra by Ulrich Stanz. Stanz, 32, was born in Bavaria and taught for a while in Zürich and Munich. He now lives and works as a freelance composer in Donaueschingen and describes himself an "ordinary, average person."

The Südwestfunk Orchestra played the world premiere of Manfred Trojan's second symphony, thus rounding off the extraordinary total of ten premieres at this year's festival.

Christel Burgmann

(Kieler Nachrichten, 24 October 1978)

Rolf Keller, president of the German Book Trade, congratulates Swedish writer Astrid Lindgren on being awarded the association's Peace Prize for her children's books, which have been translated into 40 languages. (Photo: dpa)

Swedish child-charmer gets book trade's Peace Prize

On 22 October the Peace Prize of the German Book Trade was awarded to Swedish children's book writer Astrid Lindgren in the Frankfurt Paulskirche, a highly appropriate award in the year in which The Child and the Book is the motto of the Frankfurt Book Fair.

Astrid Lindgren's books have been translated into 40 languages and are read by children all over the world.

The prize committee gave us its reasons for choosing Astrid Lindgren that her work was "exemplary for all those who throughout the world give children the gift of imagination and strengthen their hope in life."

"Arousing children's curiousity and making them critical of big words ans slogans is just as important as the task of making them less afraid of the future. Astrid Lindgren's work is not a retreat from reality, a call to shrink back into a dream world. She does not present her readers with an intact world but with a world in which we can laugh and cry, dream and also live.

"Her books convey love and warmth, they charm and enchant. She is an authoress who gently but surely teaches tolerance, fairness, understanding and responsibility and this is why she has been awarded the highest distinction the German Book Trade can confer."

The statutes of the Peace Prize Foundation say that "the Foundation serves peace, humanity and understanding between peoples." No author has done as much in this are a as Astrid Lindgren, although none of her books deals with current political themes. Astrid Lindgren does not write about international understanding, she tells children stories about children. There are no skyscrapers, cars or supermarkets in her stories. She does not need them.

"Children today see films, listen to the radio, watch TV, read comics — all this is certainly amusing and appeals to the imagination, but it is all superficial," she says. "A child left alone with his book creates somewhere deep in his soul his own pictures, which surpass all others."

Astrid Lindgren started writing books in 1944 at the age of 37 when she was confined to bed after injuring her foot. She wrote down her own experiences as a child on a farm in south Sweden and stories from her parents' childhood. She also included observations of her own children.

Stockholm publishers Raben and Sjörgren sent back her first manuscript, the very unusual stories of Pippi Longstocking, by return of post. When her second story, Britt Mari Says What is on Her Heart, won a prize in the same publisher's competition, they accepted Pippi. It was a world bestseller.

Pipi Langstrumpf was published by Friedrich Oetinger, Hamburg, in 1949, after five German publishers had turned it down. Since then the Oetinger has published 72 books by Astrid Lindgren, about three million books by her in German. The world total is reckoned to be around 30 million, not including the many reprints, particularly in the Soviet Union.

Such success is almost a fairy tale in itself. The fact that it has been achieved by retelling stories from the everyday life of young children, or fantastic stories, fairy tales, girls' books and picture book stories shows that Astrid Lindgren is understood by children throughout the world. Her stories are loved because they are told with warmth and sure humour. And because they are honest.

Ingeborg Ramseger

(Handelsblatt, 20 October 1978)

Book bazaar again breaks all records

This year's Frankfurt Book Fair, the opening of which was attended by Bonn Minister Antje Huber, has again broken all records by attracting 564 publishers more than last year. In all, 5,089 publishers from 77 countries presented 282,000 new titles.

Only 1,213 of the 2,200-odd publishers in West Germany and West Berlin came to the fair. That almost half of this country's publishers stayed away is a clear indication of the nature of the exhibition these days: 30 years ago it was still a real trade fair; today its main purpose is international publicity for books.

It follows that its choice of topic should try to go beyond mere publicity. The subject chosen this year was The Child and the Book, and an informative exhibition on children's books throughout the world was held in conjunction with the fair.

Another special exhibition showed how the Third World was presented in German children's books.

At the opening, four German Youth Book Prizes were awarded to the Sauerländer Verlag, for *Der Grosse Rutsch* (The Great Slide) by Smith, to the Dressler Verlag, for *Servus Oper, sagte Jeise*, by Donelly, to the Anrich Verlag, for *Der Bleisiegelfälscher* (The Lead Seal Faker) by Reiche and to the Carlsen Verlag for *Nest am Fenster* (Nest at the window), by Flanagan and Morris.

Any work with 49 pages or more is defined as a book for the purposes of the fair. In 1977 38,891 books were published in West Germany. Books for children and young people take up no more than 4.9 per cent of total annual book. In 1954 the figure was almost double this.

The statistical survey published annually by the German book trade at the beginning of the fair shows that belles-lettres top the list with 9,171 titles or (23.6 per cent of the market). Works on economics and social science follow with 8 per cent, law and administration (5.6 per cent) and, in fourth place before technology, works on religion and theology (5.1 per cent).

Belles-lettres owes its dominant position to being such an inclusive concept. It can be applied to works such as Wolf Biermann's lyrics The Prussian Icarus and to Mario Puzo's new novel Fools Die — two works with less in common than many works of cultural history and the history of art, separate categories for statistical purposes.

"This means the more precisely a genre is defined, the smaller its share of the market. If we compare belles-lettres with an equally wide-ranging category such as non-fiction, it no longer looks so impressive. In this case belles lettres only amounts to a third of total book production and non-fiction accounts for almost two-thirds.

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 18 October 1978)

MEDICINE

'Magic' remedies should be studied – researcher

Frankfurter Rundschau

Western drug manufacturers inundate the Third World with billions of tablets a year. Antibiotics and psychopharmaceuticals reach even the remotest corners of Africa, Asia and South America.

Poor Asians, Africans in the remote bush and primitive South American Indians obediently take white powders and pills of many colours.

But do they get well? Often enough the answer is no, despite the advances of science.

Wulf Schiefenhövel of the Max Planck Ethology Institute in Seewiesen, Bavaria, a research establishment set up by Konrad Lorenz and specialising in behavioural science, decided to find out why.

He spent four years among the Stone Age tribesmen of New Guinea, studying their behaviour towards sickness and death and their traditional medicine.

Back in Germany, he warns Western doctors not to overdo the academic arrogance with which they deride native magic and belief in demons.

What Western doctors overlook, he says, is that primitive tribesmen know their natural environment and incorporate this knowledge with magical elements in their treatment of the sick.

Traditional medicine is scientifically based on a thorough grounding in medicinal herbs, some of which are extremely effective.

In many cases this is common knowledge. Even children often know which the individual plants are and what complaints they help to cure, says Schiefenhövel.

Most herbal remedies are taken for recurring complaints, such as stomach and intestinal illness, colds and fever, skin diseases and wounds.

There is also a range of "women's plants," used in treatment of women's diseases, for contraception or abortion, during pregnancy and childbirth, and in child care.

A number of plants are also used in magic rites and reputed to have magic powers. Some rely on magic for their effect, others also have a medicinal effect.

Modern medicine has frequently benefited from its traditional counterpart. Many drugs have resulted from pharmacological analysis of medicinal herbs – quinine and strychnine are examples.

This is not the only way in which Western medicine can learn from tradition, Schiefenhövel says.

Doctors urgently need to learn more about the view of the body, sickness and treatment on which the medical customs of alien cultures are based.

"They will then realise that these cultures must not be indiscriminately inundated with Western medicine," he says.

Primitive peoples' requirements are based on an entirely different relationship with sickness and death. Pain, injuries and the minor illnesses that form part of life from birth on are willingly accepted.

Serious illnesses are regarded with fear and anxiety and invariably felt to be the work of supernatural forces. And magic can only be combated by more powerful magic.

Magic as a therapy owes its success to the psychological effect. A striking example of the technique is extraction magic.

The medicine man sits alongside the patient and bites a specific part of the body to suck out the cause of the illness. He then produces, by sleight of hand, a stone or piece of bark which he claims was the cause of the complaint.

In this way the patient can see for himself that the treatment has been successful. There is more to such treatment than mumbo-jumbo, Schiefenhövel says, and Western medicine should not dismiss it so contemptuously.

Traditional medicine uses bark to treat wounds, for instance. Bark is available almost everywhere, is sterile and easily replaced. It also contains substances which speed recovery. So why go to the trouble and expense of importing gauze, lint and cotton bandages?

The gap between scientific and traditional medicine is particularly apparent over pregnancy and childbirth.

Childbirth in the West is often seen as a kind of illness and invariably takes place in the alien, impersonal and upsetting atmosphere of hospital maternity wards.

Tribesmen in New Guinea regard childbirth as something natural. Even in rain women give birth in the open, helped, consoled and advised by their mothers and mothers-in-law.

The study of traditional medicine prompts comparison between primitive, original life and the technology of civilisation.

"When we look across cultural barriers we should bear in mind that we are looking back into our own history," Schiefenhövel says.

For more than 99 per cent of his time on earth man has lived like the so-called Stone Age primitives of New Guinea.

Peter Gillhofer

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 23 October 1978)

Leave ears alone says specialist

Picks tipped in cotton wool are unnecessary and pointless as a means of cleaning wax-filled ears, says Professor Dietrich Plester of the ear, nose and throat clinic at Tübingen University Hospital.

They merely push wax even deeper and are likely to cause inflammation and injury. The ear, he said at a refresher course on ear surgery, has a perfectly satisfactory self-cleansing mechanism.

There was no way of curing deafness caused by noise and not the slightest prospect of therapy, he noted. Damage to the inner ear caused by noise was irreparable.

Noise did not affect hearing until a fairly high level was reached, but deafness as a result of noise exposure headed the list of occupational hazards.

Five per cent of people in the Federal Republic of Germany suffer from acute loss of hearing.

Professor Plester is not optimistic about the much-vaunted implantation of electrodes in the inner ear as a means of improving hearing.

There were physiological reasons why the technique was unlikely to prove successful, he said. Electric impulses could only convey rhythm and noise values to someone totally deaf.

Any patient with even a vestige of natural hearing can hear "a thousand times better" than he was likely to do with the aid of electrodes.

Hearing aids had to be adapted to suit individuals. They often were not, with

Continued on page 13

Doctors told: learn about alcoholism

Alcoholics are usually acknowledged by their GP to be genuinely ill, but the doctor frequently recommends the wrong therapy.

Many general practitioners knew too little about alcoholism and this urgently needed remedying, North Rhine-Westphalian Health Minister Friedhelm Farthmann said in Düsseldorf on 18 October.

He was commenting on a study of the causes and effects of alcoholism by Cologne University sociologists based on the records of 258 patients at a hospital in Düren, near Aachen.

Professor Erwin K. Scheuch, of Cologne University's applied social research department, and Helmut Köster and Professor Frank Matakas, of Düren Hospital, conclude that advice and therapy for alcoholics is often too little too late.

One doctor in three consulted by alcoholics was either unable or unwilling to prescribe therapy.

Where therapy was tried in the 258 case histories under review it consisted in every other case of a course of drugs.

The result was often reliance on sleeping pills instead, or tranquillisers, especially distraneurin, a drug which seemed particularly popular with GPs.

Only in 15 per cent of cases were patients recommended to try special clinics or courses of treatment. Only one per cent of alcoholics who sought assistance from their doctor were advised to try psychotherapy.

Herr Farthmann said doctors were seriously wrong in their treatment of alcoholics. Doctors, psychologists and social workers were to be provided with more detailed information and further education courses would be held.

This was urgently needed because the incidence of acoholism was increasing alarmingly. Over the past decade the number of alcoholics admitted to hospitals in North Rhine-Westphalia for treatment had increased by 250 per cent.

In emergency clinics admissions had increased by 42 per cent in a year.

Karlegon Halbach

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 19 October 1978)

EDUCATION

Argument still rages over future of education

The arguments over the educational system have long since spread from educational policymakers to parents worried about giving their children the right education or training and businessmen and tradesmen asking how commerce is in the long run to be provided with qualified workers.

While Education Ministers warn against the temptation of university education, predicting a glut of graduates, leading to lower incomes, others hold that universities should open their doors as wide as possible to ensure equality of opportunity and because there are far too few academics. The world, they say, is becoming increasingly complicated and the more a person knows the better he can cope.

The controversies are clearly reflected in statistics which, on the one hand, show youth unemployment and an excessive number of graduates, while, on the other, show that many businesses are desperate for qualified staff, frequently having to seek them abroad.

Vocational expert Hegelheimer of Bielefeld says that every fifth foreign worker is skilled and thus holds a job which, given better training, could be filled by a German.

Euphoria has turned into despair although it is only eight years since the government under Willy Brandt attempted to gain stature by a number of educational policy moves.

Things look quite different now.

Never before, says the invitation to the latest Villa Hügel discussion (held at the Krupp residence in Essen) organised by *Stifterverband für die Deutsche Wissenschaft*, has there been more distrust of Germany's educational policy.

Too many promised results of educational reforms have failed to materialise.

Educational policymakers react either with a tired smile or a bitter protest of their innocence. It is not their fault, they say, that there is a pupil or apprentice surplus, nor is it their fault that the economy is in the doldrums. And it can most assuredly not be blamed on educational policy that technology and streamlining have removed many jobs, and indeed entire trades.

Accusations and rebuttals are part of the game, but they have little to do with reality, which is that academic degrees still enjoy enormous prestige even if they do not lead to jobs in the chosen profession.

Among the realities is also civil service legislation with its rigid promotion system and its absurd consequences. The number of years of education, especially at university, can be decisive for careers, and a fraction of an overall grade can decide success or failure at the end of 13 or more years of schooling.

Many of these shortcomings are familiar to all and no-one seriously denies them. But even so, policymakers are unable to bring about changes with the instruments available to them. The state remains the last hope in an effort to untangle the mess.

This realisation is not tantamount to resignation but to awareness of realities, and educational policymakers are starting to discover these.

It is hoped that the Villa Hügel discussion will be a first step. The Krupp villa serves as a meeting place for leftists and non-leftists, theoreticians and practitioners, politicians and functionaries, all of whom will be called upon to think aloud about what is to become of the *Hauptschule* (school which takes pupils to the ninth or tenth grade), what is to happen in in the universities, and what the position is of vocationale training.

People are aware that these questions are linked, although this does not apply to the solutions.

The fact that it frequently turns out that a drop-out suddenly shows unexpected abilities in practical training, not only manual skills, but intellectual abilities, while a university graduate proves a failure in practical work should trigger a rethinking.

Are the *Hauptschulen* too academically orientated? And are the universities too theoretical? Is the marking system wrong?

The question is genuinely whether *Hauptschule* graduates can compete with their *Gymnasium* (secondary school from which one can enter university) counterparts.

It is up to the personnel departments of business and the civil service to answer this question.

But there are many other aspects in the discussion of the *Hauptschule*. One is the integration of foreign children a problem still completely unsolved.

As far as general educational policy is concerned, the question is how to handle the vocationale training of *Hauptschule* drop-outs; whether there should be such a thing as a drop-out, and whether access to a career should only be possible through vocational training and apprenticeships, provided jointly by the school and business.

This duals system has latterly been emphatically espoused by the Bonn government. But even so, there is scepticism.

The equal opportunity ideology of the recent past held that all progress and promotion hinged on the *Gymnasium*, and this ideology still lingers in civil service career prospects, personnel departments and in reality.

The consequence is that more and more *Gymnasium* graduates try to get apprenticeships, whether or not these are "parking apprenticeships" (an interim step before university enrolment).

Incidentally, university legislation promotes this.

With such distortions as a backdrop, educational policy is faced with the question: how is the present system to react to the demands of practical careers?

There appears to be a change of position in the offing on this point.

While the dominant aspect up to now was free access to all educational institutions, the labour market is gradually forcing policymakers to review this. The theory that business must accept what the schools provide is losing its acceptance.

Educational planners who have recognised this development are pointing to the abyss of the future and saying that only when technicians and businessmen have clearly said what kind of workers they will need in the gos can action be taken. But this question remains unanswered, providing those who do not act with an excuse.

But realistic decisions are perfectly feasible. Hoechst chemical works psychologist and training expert Amthauer recently said rather off-handedly that no-one left school ready to tackle an occupation. Thus it would seem obvious that schooling should be finished more swiftly – both in the *Hauptschulen* and at universities – and that schools should prepare their students for working life.

But this would presuppose agreement on what a pupil should know on graduating.

Klaus-U. Ebmeyer

(Deutsche Zeitung, 13 October 1978)

Continued from page 12

the result that expensive items of equipment went unused.

The hard of hearing could often still hear low-frequency background noise perfectly well, so that amplification by hearing aids was felt to be intolerable.

Deafness caused by deficiencies of the middle ear could be remedied by surgery. Professor Plester listed three complaints which, if untreated, would gradually destroy the middle ear.

Because of the risk of inflammation they were once extremely dangerous. At the first sign of complications surgery was essential.

But cures were now possible with the aid of microsurgery, and surgery no longer endangered hearing.

The Tübingen clinic has carried out more than 30,000 operations over the past 20 years. Surgery is currently performed on 2,000 patients a year from all over the world.

It is one of the world's major centres of ear surgery and research, and about 1,000 specialists from 88 countries have visited the clinic in the past ten years.

One-week further education courses have been held yearly since 1968. They include instruction in surgery and are attended by 40 specialists from German-speaking countries.

dpa

(Die Welt, 12 October 1978)

Sneaking a look at cheaters

Some German educationalists hold that cheating at school, done by almost all students, is a typically German phenomenon.

But a look at the regulations of foreign educantional authorities shows that the problem is at least equally widespread abroad.

Hardly any student is absolutely honest, and tests and studies show that up to 95 per cent cheat. This practice becomes well established from the fifth grade.

A recently study in the Rhineland-Palatinate shows that cheating is so widespread that it can certainly not be taken as a sign of "moral depravity."

The study has also established that students do not cheat due to laziness, stupidity or on priciple, but that their cheating is flexible and done according to need and situation.

Of prime importance is the analysis by the student of his position at school (which he is usually able to assess very accurately), as, for instance, possible consequences of a badly done examination, and the preparatory work done by the teacher, as well as the manner of grading.

Give a adequate chance to pass a written or oral examination or adequate preparation for it by the teacher, 60 per cent found the test "fair". On the other hand, where a test was considered "unfair" and excessively difficult, 96 and 92.5 per cent respectively cheated.

According to the study, certain clichés according to which the less talented cheat because they have to and the more "intelligent" ones because they are clever enough to do so have to be revised.

Most students cheat when they consider themselves overtaxed. As a result, the less talented cheat more often, although this is hard to prove statistically.

When the more intelligent students consider themselves overtaxed, they also cheat – and in some instances even more than their less gifted counterparts.

In his study Cheating at School, Dr. Harmut Christmann of the Pedagogic University of the Rhineland-Palatinate has reviewed findings on cheating and the hypotheses derived from them. The study is based on representative spot checks of male and female seventh graders and a control group. The total number of students involved was 249.

Both student groups took cheating tests, once shortly before and once shortly after their reports.

The evaluation showed the exent of examination jitters and the "manifest fear" (expressed among other things in accelerated heart beat, nervousness, insomnia and inability to concertrate) as well as disgruntlement with school in general.

The data also covered the students tendencies to lie, their IQ and their attitudes towards parental upbringing.

Analysis and interpretation showed that bad marks for homework and in reports trigger disenchantment with school and the fear of flunking as well as, paradoxically, the desire to appear honest, and that all this can be responsible for cheating.

The desire of pupils to comport themselves (or to appear to do so) as expected proved one of the major indicators of the probability of cheating.

Generally, girls are slightly more honest than boys. At the age in question they are usually more intelligent than boys and learn more easily, thus being at an advantage even over unusual demands.

Due to their consistently good performance, they do not panic easily and are therefore not tempted to cheat.

The study also examined the effect of upbringing on cheating. Christmann's hypothesis that students who consider their parents strict cheat less has not been confirmed.

The development of a "conscience" that would lead to less cheating seems to bee primarily due to the father's strictness.

Dr. Renate I. Mreschar

(Nordwest Zeitung, 21 October 1978)

■ SOCIETY

Prison study overturns views on typical jailbreakers

Bremer Nachrichten

A recent Study on the causes and motives of prison escapes, carried out in an open juvenile correction institution in North Rhine-Westphalia, disproves some widely-held views about jailbreaks.

The study makes it clear that escapers are usually the weaker of the juvenile delinquents and not bully-boys and hard-core criminals as frequently assumed.

The study, by Dr Claus Hartmann of the Criminological Institute of Cologne University, was based on interviews with 30 recaptured juvenile escapers from Hövelhof prison and on an analysis of the files of prisoners released in 1972.

Escapes from open prisons are usually triggered by homesickness and uncertainty over what is happening at home (frequently when no post has come from the family), and by difficulties and arguments with fellow inmates.

In addition, for many freedom becomes an irresistable lure and they consider the prison staff unjust and unpredictable.

According to Dr Hartmann, these motives are almost a leitmotiv.

This is not surprising considering that the prisoner in an open penitentiary is never permitted to be alone, spending all his time with prisoners or staff or both — never with people of his own choosing.

Moreover, the "anti-prison atmosphere" in these unbarred, open institutions is frequently overtaxing for the inmate, especially because the rules are extremely strict, leaving almost no scope for choice.

Thus, for instance, the inmates (mostly youngsters between 14 and 18) are checked at night to make sure that they are wearing regulation nightshirts rather than pyjamas, which are not permitted.

The tension and temptation to which inmates are exposed is demonstrated by the following interview. Said one youngsters: "There is a cigarette vending machine but you are not permitted to use it... girls walk past very close to you and yet you may not talk to them. You may walk in the courtyard but you may not smoke... and all the time you know that a leap across the fence will give you back your freedom..."

As long as the basic needs for some privacy occasionally during the day, of some time without supervision and of weekend leave to take care of matters at home remain unsatisfied in an open prison, it must of necessity promote the desire to escape, says Dr Hartmann.

It is not surprising that it is especially the weaker personalities who break out. They are less able to take the strain and to adjust to reality.

It is also these people, Dr. Hartmann says, who are of an age characterised by the desire to break away from authority.

One reason is that they have no intact love relations and their home circumstances (changing guardians or a disturbed relationship with parents) are such that they have never experienced family life.

Running away has always been a technique for mastering life.

Seen in this light, it is not surprising that escapes have nothing to do with the crimes committed by the delinquent. There are, however, exceptions: a close statistical link exists between car theft and driving without a licence and prison breaks. On the other hand, prisoners inside for assault are not particularly tempted to escape.

Dr Hartmann attributes this to the fact that those who make a break do so simply because they have the urge for mobility. The stolen car thus becomes a mere tool with which to cope with life, a flight from reality.

This is contrasted by the apparent incompatibility of assault as the reason for being in prison and a break for freedom.

Assault, says Dr Hartmann, is an action diametrically opposed to running away. It is a confrontation.

These people know how to cope with a situation and they change it to suit themselves by fighting their way through. *Renate Mreschar*

(Bremer Nachrichten, 21 October 1978)

Bremen allows prisoners to finish training

Frankfurter Rundschau

Justice authorities in the city of Bremen have introduced a scheme in which released juvenile prisoners may apply to return to jail voluntarily to complete trade apprenticeships started while inside.

Most prisoners in juvenile correctional institutions serve terms of less than three years and have to discontinue apprenticeships started in prison.

Now the juvenile prison Blockland in Bremen will allow discharged inmates to return after release and get their qualification.

The first applications for continued apprenticeship have been received.

Blockland has seven vocational training courses and two courses aimed at passing *Hauptschule* examinations.

The youths can learn to be painters, bricklayers, carpenters, gardeners, steel-workers in the construction industry, garage mechanics, or train in business administration.

There is also a special boat-building course. Apprenticeship usually lasts three years and ends with a journeyman's examination or the equivalent in business administration.

Of the 170 inmates, 50 are learning a trade.

Experience shows that those who finish an apparenticeship usually have little trouble finding a job, while others have a hard time. Word of this has got around among the prisoners and they are eager to learn.

Before being apprenticed the prisoner must undergo an aptitude test carried out by the master craftsman under whom he will work.

Former inmates returning voluntarily must abide by prison regulations, arriving in the morning and leaving in the late afternoon.

Where ex-inmates have no relatives to support them, the Social Welfare Department helps.

Blockland Warden Horst Isola considers it best for ex-prisoners facing a crisis to return to the prison for a while if they wish to! *Günter Beneke-Kracht*

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 18 October 1978)

Commission wants new deal for children

Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger

Television should take children more account of children in its programmes, work should be more family orientated, and particular care should be devoted to handicapped children.

These are the main demands of a national commission chaired by Bonn Family Affairs Minister Antje Huber as West Germany's contribution the Year of the Child in 1979.

The main objective of the commission, representing 160 organisations, is to fundamentally improve the position of children in society.

Concrete proposals have been worked out, calling on the TV networks to provide more children's broadcasts in place of commercials in the early evening.

The commission also wants the evening to have more broadcasts which appeal to the whole family.

A suggestion which leaked out prematurely and was severely criticised stands little chance of being implemented: Frau Huber considers it impossible to impose a general ban on commercials for products harmful to children.

The commission's programme also contains proposals publicly discussed some time ago.

Members called for the introduction of a child subsidy by the state that would enable at least one parent to spend all day at home in the first three years of a child's life.

The commission also suggested various types of financial assistance, such as family loans, which would help young people's transition into working life.

It has also been recommended that the working day be organised to enable both parents to take part in child rearing.

This is to be achieved by more flexible working hours, days off for housework for both mothers and fathers, and time off for the care of sick children.

Particular attention should be paid to fringe groups, especially handicapped children, who frequently live in intolerable conditions.

Siegesmund von Ilsemann

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 13 October 1978)

Foreigners 'not most frequent law breakers'

Contrary to the widespread belief that foreign workers in West Germany commit more crimes in relation to their numbers than Germans, exactly the opposite is true, according to a study by a Munich criminologist.

But the old claim is true for foreign juveniles, whose crime rate is considerably higher than that of their German counterparts.

Christian Pfeiffer of the Munich University's Criminological Institute says that, as in major American cities, Germany too will soon be faced with a criminal sub-culture unless swift action is taken.

This action must include better integration into German society of the young foreigners.

A recent congress in Bonn dealt solely with the subject, based on the findings of Pfeiffer and his co-author, Peter-Alexis Albrecht. The meeting was organised by the Workers Welfare Organisation.

Based on a review of five major cities with a high percentage of foreign workers, the study found that the crime rate was highest among the 14 to 18-year old children of foreign workers.

In Stuttgart, for instance, 88 per cent more foreign youngsters ran foul of the law than did Germans in the same age group. The difference in Munich is 60, in Hamburg 40, in Frankfurt 37 and in Hanover 35 per cent.

Most youngsters in this age group were either born in Germany or arrived as small children.

Sociologically, they must be considered German, but in school, at work and in contacts with Germans of the same age they face conflicts because they are not truly integrated.

These conflicts frequently result in crimes and the number of foreign children born in Germany or coming to it at pre-school age will rise.

The kinds of crimes also show that they are frequently caused by non-integration.

Among the 14- to 18-year-olds, rape and assault are particularly prevalent, while among Germans the most frequent is larceny.

In interviews with youth authorities, the two researchers also went into sanctions against foreign juvenile delinquents.

It emerged that the Aliens Authority — as opposed to youth authorities and correctional institution staff — tended to deport a delinquent immediately after he had served a jail term.

Since the parents in most instances choose to stay in Germany and the youngsters have no ties with their own country, wardens of juvenile institutions consider these deportations most harmful.

A Hamburg warden said it considerably diminished the young people's chances of rehabilitation.

A Bavarian warden even went so far as to say that deportation was a major disaster: "These people dream German and think German. They have been in Germany for 14 years or more, and deportation is tantamount to social execution for them." *Rudolf Grosskopf*

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 18 October 1978)

■ SPORT

Gabi is queen of the saddle at last



Which would you sooner have: a piano or a bicycle?" Karl Höhler, now 50, asked his daughter, Gabi, many years ago. She chose a bike, and not any old bike but a trick cycle as used by stage and circus acrobats.

Höhler, a technician, knew a thing or two about music but nothing but cycling as a artistic discipline.

But Gabi Höhler, 22, is now world champion in her sport, while her father can claim to be the most successful trainer in the business.

Gabi, from Delkenheim, near Frankfurt, won her title on 20 October in Herning, Denmark, at the fourth try, having previously won three bronze medals at world championships.

Health trouble, nerves or sheer bad luck bedevilled past world championship bids by the blonde bank clerk. She also had to compete with past master Anna Matuskova of Czechoslovakia.

But in Denmark everything went her way: well, almost everything. Her six-minute freestyle routine of 25 exercises nearly came unstuck.

At one point she had to dismount, but at long last she outpointed the Czech girl by nine tenths of a point.

"The fall two minutes into my routine increased my determination to carry on," she said. But she still needed time to digest that she had achieved her ambition and won the elusive world crown.

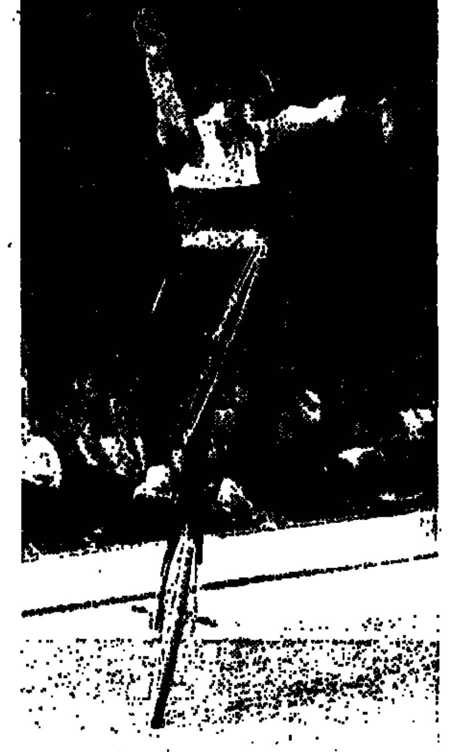
The following Monday she was back at work, clocking in at 8am at her Wiesbaden branch of Deutsche Bank. "But they presented me with a huge bouquet of flowers and sent me home for the day," she says.

She is grateful to the bank for allowing her Wednesday afternoons off to train and granting her generous leave for tournaments.

Gazing happily at her bouquet, she says she has gladly given 15 years to top-flight sport, but now she plans to take it easy.

But Gabi is not hanging up her 12-kg, DM1,800, custom-built cycle for good. She merely intends to relax after training hard three or more times a week.

She will still compete in the occasional tournament: "You have to ease off slowly to allow the body to readjust. Besides, I shall have to swim and go in for gymnastic therapy because I have overstrained my back over the years."



Gabi Höhler is world trick cycling champion — after 15 years of hard work. (Photo: Horstmüller)

She will not be 23 until 24 November but her body is already beginning to show signs of wear. Yet despite the punishment she has taken in her quest for world championship honours, she has no regrets.

The Sports Aid Foundation may not have been very generous as she cycled her way to the top, but "I would still opt for a bicycle rather than a piano."

Walter Mirwald

(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 24 October 1978)

Pills now underground says sports doctors

Last year's joint declaration by the National Olympic Committee and Sports, League (DSB) banning steroids and other proscribed drugs has had little if any efect.

Top-flight athletes are still pill-takers. Never before have they run such a serious health risk, but their only concern is not to be found out.

They remain convinced that drugs boost performance and feel they must take them to compete on equal terms with others.

The only change is that they are now worried their doctors might talk so they have taken to popping pills secretly and without medical supervision.

Professor Joseph Keul of Freiburg University, who holds the country's only chair of sports medicine, is convinced that the number of athletes who take drugs illicitly has increased dramatically.

"We have yet to cope with the loss of confidence in the medical profession among athletes as a result of last year's undignified debate," he says.

Professor Armin Klümper, another specialist in sports medicine at Freiburg University, says:

"The public debate and joint declaration not only made our work more difficult; they set us back years.

"Previously we could at least monitor the intake of steroids. Now, with so many athletes taking them without confiding in their doctors, the risk of lasting health damage is naturally greater."

Experts do not doubt that many athletes still take muscle and other pills.

They are convinced that NOC and DSB eyebrows would be raised if spot checks were taken among athletes in a variety of disciplines.

Sports officials and politicians took the easy way out. They seem to have imagined that warnings and exhortations accompanied by occasional checks would be enough to end the practice.

They were hopelessly mistaken. Professor Wildor Hollmann, head of the department of cardiac circulation research at Cologne Sports Academy, fears drug-taking may increase.

With only two years to the Moscow Olympics, he expects athletes to start a pharmaceutical arms race.

Last year's declaration was made in the hope of stemming the tide, but it

STUTTGARTER NACHRICHTEN

proved useless. "To go without steroids is to forgo performance," Professor Keul says.

"And as long as drug regulations are only observed in some countries, drug-taking is a must if West German athletes are to compete internationally on equal terms.

"We will not stand as much as a chance of coping with the problem until doping checks are made internationally and consistently: not only at major international meetings but also while athletes are in training."

Enforcement must be accompanied by a number of other measures, such as systematic training, first-rate coaching and special diets, Professor Klümper says.

"Not until something along these lines is undertaken will athletes of their own accord be prepared to dispense with steroids."

He also feels it is high time officials stopped pillorying athletes who are caught. Public condemnation not only ends their sporting careers; it can also create difficulties in private and professional life.

"Athletes have as much right as anyone else to consideration for their private lives. Besides, what have they done to merit treatment as though they were criminals. Plenty of people take pep pills at work and no-one objects."

Professor Klümper says sports associations are making a grave mistake if they feel that by punishing individual athletes they are establishing excuses for themselves:

"All they have succeeded in doing is making an almost irreparable breach in athletes' confidence in sports officials.

"The June 1977 sports charter grandly proclaimed that organised sport concentrated on the athlete and the training, medical and psychological support he needs.

"I should like to know what has become of this concentration. Officialdom has not seen fit to tell us how to meet these needs."

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 21 October 1978)

Bauer pauses to accept Nurmi prize

Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger

Some athletes grow big-headed on the strength of the power they pack in their legs, says Professor Gerhard Uhlenbruck, the Cologne long-distance man.

But Siegfried Bauer, 36, from New Zealand, is not one of the athletes chastised by Uhlenbruck, who now heads the department of experimental inner medicine at Cologne University Hospital.

During a stopover in Cologne, Bauer learnt that he had been awarded the coveted Paavo Nurmi prize by the Olympic Athletes Association.

He was naturally gratified but felt he could best celebrate the occasion by packing his kitbag and heading for the Nürburgring road race.

He had not intended to take part in the Nürburgring race during his stay in Germany. "Not long enough," he says. Bauer is used to running 100 kilometres and more a day.

Now a worker at a waterworks in New Zealand, he was born in German-speaking Czechoslovakia and came to Europe for a running holiday that took him from one end of Germany to the other.

When he flies back to his job he will be able to look back at a long-distance programme that would put many an Olympic gold medallist to shame.

He set out from the foot of Zugspitze, the tallest mountain in Bavaria, and ran to the North Sea holiday isle of Sylt in just over a week.

He covered 1,169 kilometres (730 miles) in 8 days, 12 hours, 5 minutes, setting up a new world record of 7 days, 5 hours, 24 minutes for the 1,000 kilometres.

It is not a record acknowledged or a distance listed by the International Amateur Athletics Federation, but long-distance specialists will appreciate what it means.

An athlete capable of covering such distances can only be a picture of health. He runs to prove what the lungs and legs of a training athlete can do.

But he shakes his head with a smile at a US newspaper headline proclaiming that "Bauer is the world's healthiest man." He is not keen on such claims.

"Unfortunately," he says, "those of us who go in for really long distances are either dismissed as maniacs or revered as health apostles."

During long-distance runs, he explains, the athlete has more time than in many other sports to philosophise. En route from Zugspitze to Sylt he had ample time to think about the meaning of life.

"But long-distance running can never be a *weltanschauung*, an *ersatz* religion," he insists.

Siegfried Bauer did not only come to Europe to set up records. He also wanted to dispel suspicions that long-distance men are shamateurs who earn a small fortune from advertising on their singlets.

"I have picked up expenses during my holiday," he admits, "but not enough to buy myself a herd of sheep back home. It may be enough to buy one sheep, but that is about all." *Gert Holzau*

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 25 October 1978)